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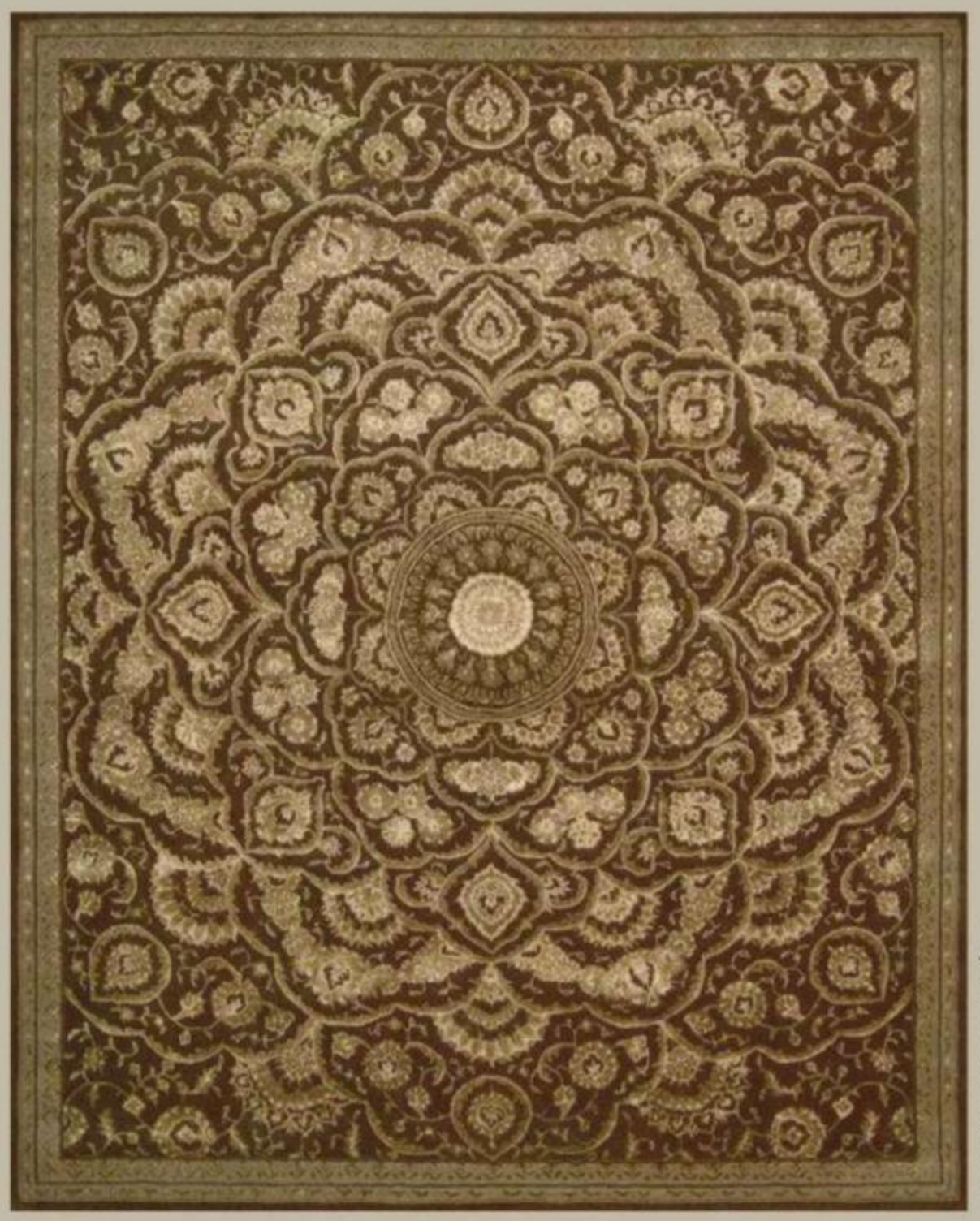

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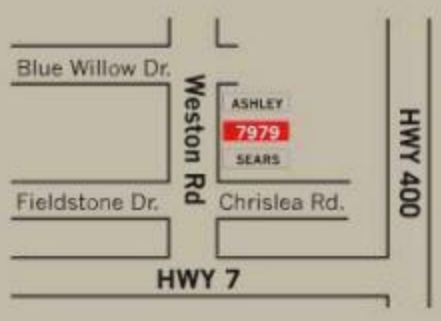

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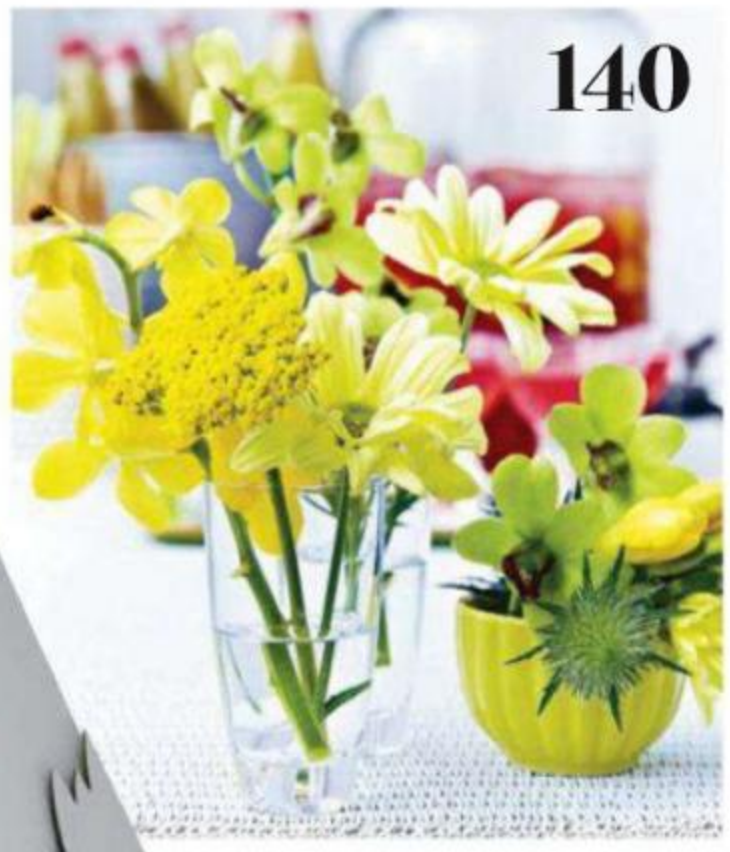
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STYLE ME PRETTY

I truly find it fascinating how interior designers and decorators can constantly evolve with the times and have multiple signature looks. When it comes to my home, my go-to look is simple: a palette of pale grey, soft lilac and white combined with a touch of modern, a hint of traditional, a soupçon of patina (I love mixing vintage finds with modern pieces) and a final dash of bold colour. No matter what I'm inspired by – colourful ikat fabrics from John Robshaw last month, fresh and fun mini polka dots from Kate Spade this month – my style never really seems to waver.

So I decided to give up "control" over my look by inviting two design teams to help me redesign my current kitchen and expand my design horizons (the 25-year-old existing decor suited the previous homeowners but not me!). Working with IKEA Canada, I asked the pros at Kelly Deck Design of Vancouver, whose chic style is infused with a casual West Coast vibe, and Toronto's Croma Design, which has a sophisticated take on contemporary style, to each come up with a new concept for my kitchen that you, loyal readers, can help me choose (see page 31). Plus, by voting on which kitchen design you think should be realized, you can enter to win your very own $25,000 kitchen makeover. The *Style at Home* design team would love to help you create *your* defining look.

In the meantime, this issue we feature some incredible designers who show us how to pull together fresh, new looks in our home – without sacrificing our personal style.

Erin

Erin McLaughlin erin@styleathome.com

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PHOTOGRAPHY, VIRGINIA MACDONALD (PORTRAIT)

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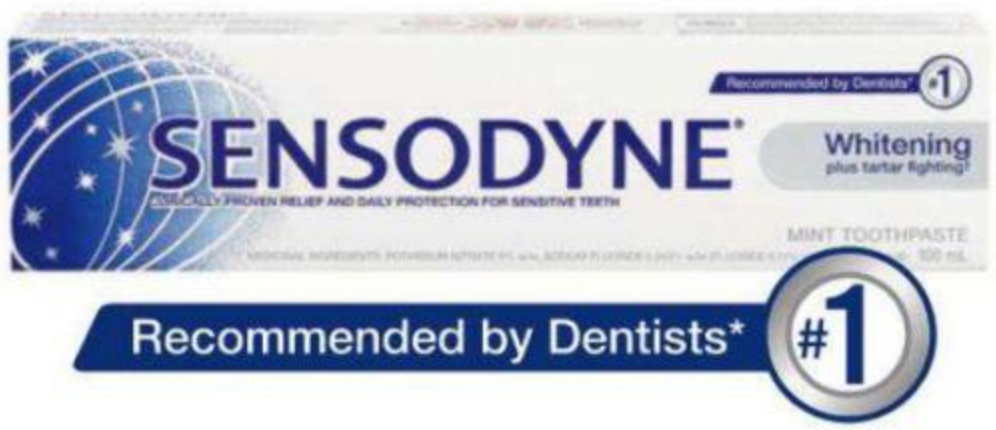

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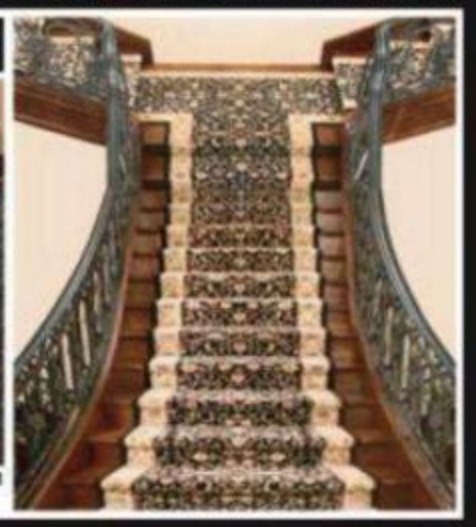

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CHANTAL SALDANHA, via email

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I was ready to cancel my subscription when Donna Hay became the food editor, but, looking through recent editions of *Style at Home*, I was very happy to see the revamped food section. Your support of excellent Canadian talent is a welcomed change. Well done!

CAMERON STAUCH, OTTAWA

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"Love the kitchen on the cover of *Style at Home*'s May issue, especially the shimmery backsplash"
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"Most excellent weather today! Definitely time for a little spring cleaning – tips via *Style at Home*"
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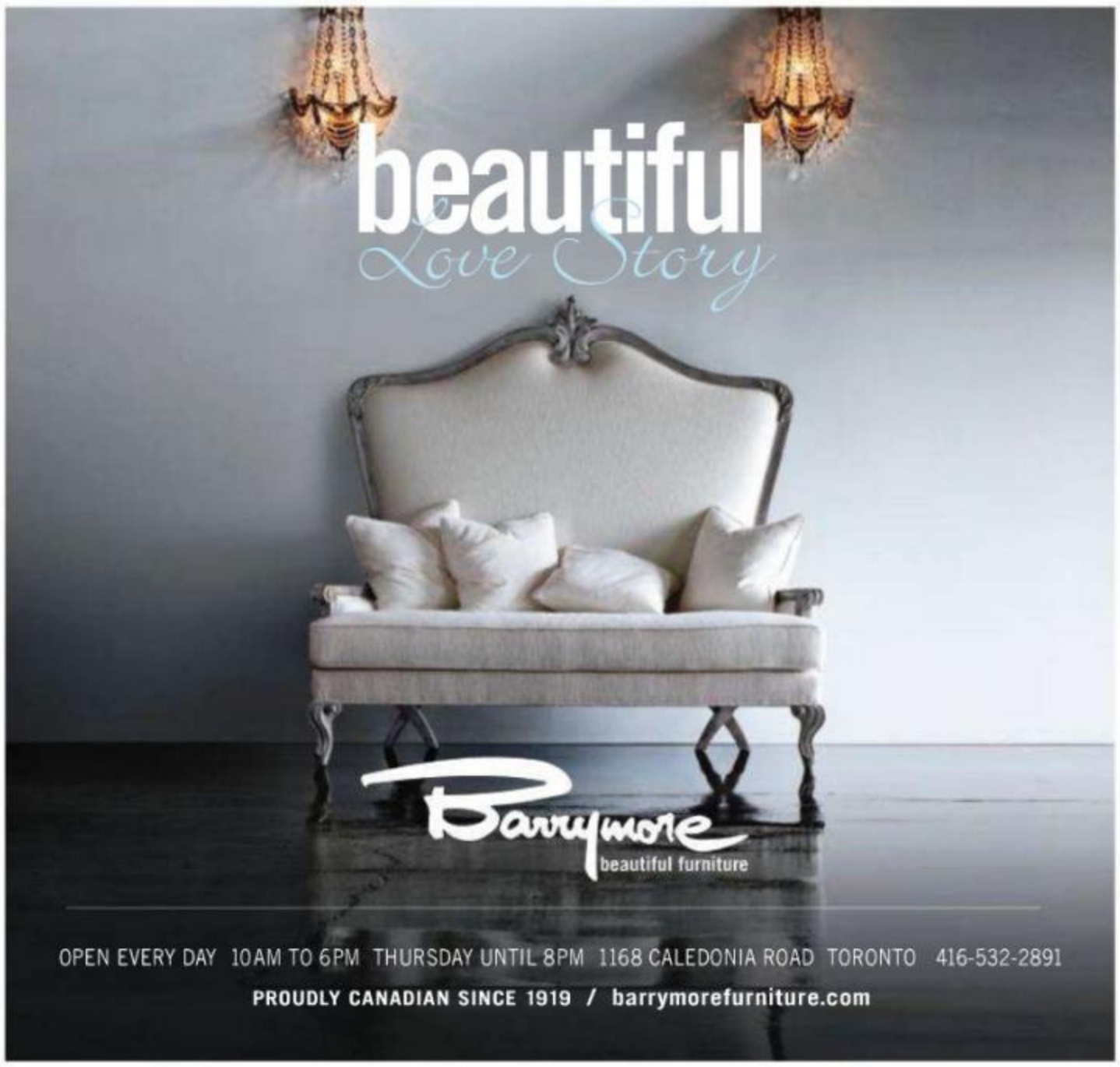
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We've had so many queries about the stunning location for our Food+Drinks shoot (May 2011). Well, we'll share our secret source: it was shot on location, about an hour outside of Toulouse, France. Check out jackryn.com for more info about this gorgeous rental property.

UPDATE!

Although correct at the time of printing, we know that a lot of our readers have had trouble locating the *Style at Home*/Korhani rugs we featured. Please find the updated styles below.

DALILA
Ivory (with taupe accents)
Taupe (with ivory accents)

EMMELINE
Red (with cream accents)
Grey (with ivory accents)
Taupe (with ivory accents)

Available at korhani.com/catalog

Due to photography and printing processes, colours shown may differ from actual rug colours. For accuracy, please visit the Korhani website. Happy shopping!

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†Reported by Tempur-Pedic owners as compared to owners of traditional mattress brands. 2010 SMI-Alcott Mattress Attitude & Usage Study.

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Editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** on set with Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman.

WE'RE ON TV!

Catch editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin on CBC's *Steven and Chris*. For air dates and times, check your local listings or go to cbc.ca/stevenandchris.

style DATE WITH

Don't miss *Style at Home* editors and designers on television and online.

Managing editor **Tamara Robbins Griffith** and contributing design editor **Samantha Pynn** will be on *CityLine* May 17. Check your local listings for showtimes.

Watch contributing design editor **Samantha Pynn** on *The Switch*, a new HGTV web series on hgtv.ca. Turn to page 90 to see some of the looks Samantha created for the series.

PHOTOGRAPHY, VIRGINIA MACDONALD (ERIN'S PORTRAIT), FRANC NATALE (SAMANTHA'S PORTRAIT), STACEY VAN BERKEL-HAINES (TAMARA'S PORTRAIT)

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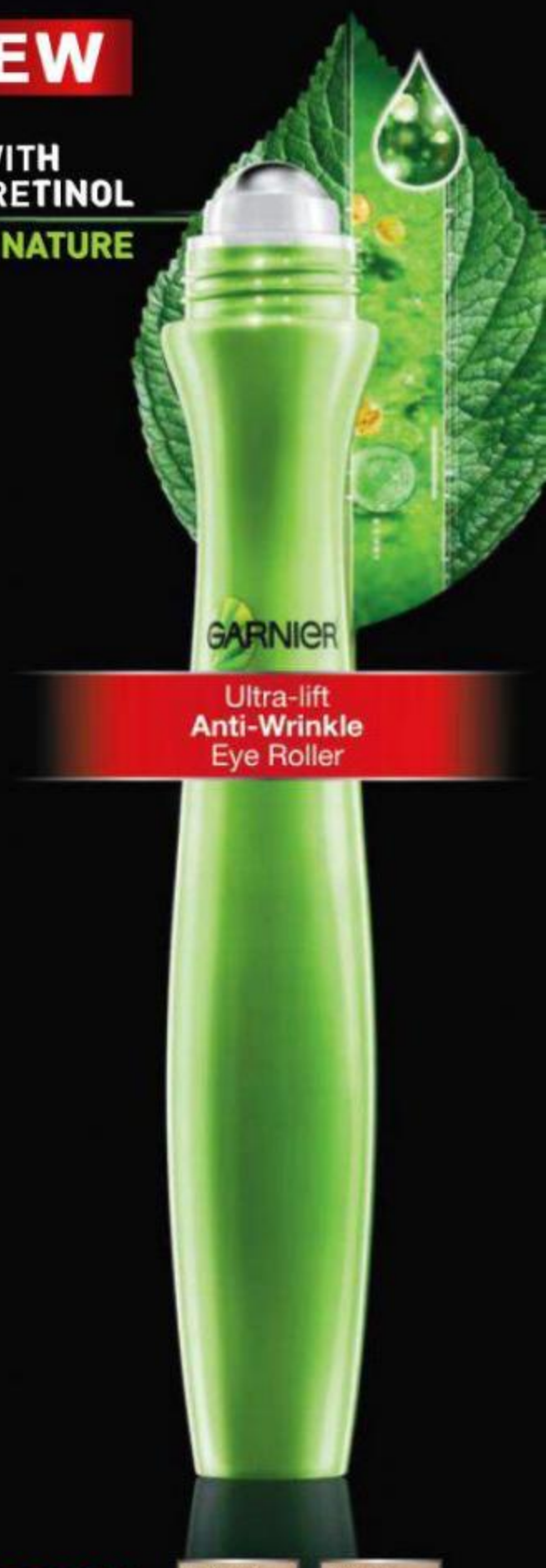

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*** Based on # of subjects that tolerated products without discontinuating use in a 2-week safety test.

ONLINE THIS MONTH

styleathome.com

5 *fresh* outdoor entertaining spaces

styleathome.com/5outdoorspaces

8 essentials for a smooth-sailing outdoor party

styleathome.com/outdoorpartyessentials

10 delicious recipes for a summer party

styleathome.com/summerrecipes

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PHOTOGRAPHY: [illegible], VIRGINIA MACDONALD

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WHEN *STYLE AT HOME* EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ERIN MCLAUGHLIN BOUGHT HER NEW HOME LATE LAST YEAR, SHE INHERITED THE PREVIOUS HOMEOWNERS' DESIGN DECISIONS, INCLUDING THEIR DARK, DATED AND POORLY LAID-OUT KITCHEN. A COMPLETE KITCHEN OVERHAUL QUICKLY TOPPED ERIN'S TO-DO LIST. INUNDATED WITH HUNDREDS UPON THOUSANDS OF DESIGN CHOICES, ERIN DECIDED TO MAKE IT SIMPLE: INVITE TWO TOP CANADIAN DESIGN FIRMS TO TEAM UP WITH IKEA CANADA AND CONCEPTUALIZE HER NEW KITCHEN, SHARE THEIR DESIGNS WITH OUR READERS, AND LET *YOU* DETERMINE HER KITCHEN-TO-BE.

the problems

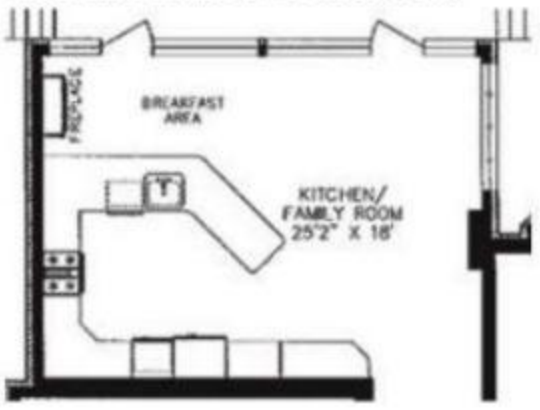
1 Despite its beautiful panoramic windows, the kitchen has dark wood trim and cabinetry and dim lighting that leaves it in the dark. Erin wants to brighten it up with a neutral palette.

2 The poorly planned layout and lack of storage are a huge waste of space. The existing island also cuts into the living area. Lots of storage and a more efficient integration of the working and living areas are at the top of Erin's list of must-haves.

3 In addition to being dark, the existing terra cotta tile floors also make this kitchen feel cold. Erin would like to warm it up by grounding the space with wood flooring.

4 The current single-bowl sink is too small. To accommodate Erin's need for more efficient prep space, a large double bowl is required.

THE EXISTING FLOOR PLAN



The current layout isn't functional for a family of four and lacks the storage space *Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin needs. She wants the new design to reflect her family's active lifestyle – from cooking gourmet meals and entertaining to doing homework and spending quality time together.

THE DESIGNERS' CHALLENGE

THE MAIN GOAL: To have the kitchen work as the family's main room, whether it's used for cooking, dining, doing homework or hanging out. Because Erin loves to entertain, she wants the design to have a high level of sophistication.

Topping Erin's wish list is extensive storage space, including a pantry and open shelving for her collections. She's also asked for a pro-quality range and a huge island for prep because she loves to cook with her step-daughters. When it comes to the look, she favours a streamlined, contemporary design combined with elegant accents, textiles and artwork.

TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE DESIGN, SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 36

TEXT, AMANDA ETTY; PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TRANSCONTINENTAL INTERACTIVE (PALETTES); RENDERINGS, LEE CHESTER/CAPSULE DESIGNS (CONCEPT #1), KENNY KALYNIK (CONCEPT #2)

concept #1

THE DESIGN TEAM KELLY DECK (SHOWN AT LEFT) AND LINDSAY GUENTER OF VANCOUVER-BASED KELLY DECK DESIGN

THE LOOK LIGHT, BRIGHT AND ECLECTIC

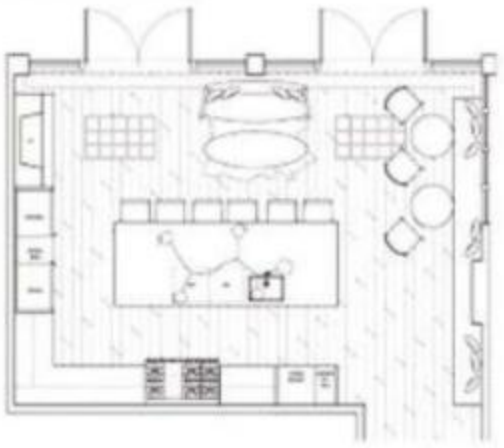
Lindsay Guenter and Kelly Deck worked to incorporate Erin's personality into their design, which is multi-functional and solves all of the kitchen's main problems. The team worked with IKEA's kitchen planner, settling on low-profile Shaker-style cabinetry with clean-lined hardware. The white-painted cabinetry paired with a HanStone quartz countertop and an elegant Carrara marble-topped island lend the space a lighter and brighter feel. High-end appliances by Thermador elevate the look, while a Lindsey Adleman light fixture is unexpected and quirky, just like Erin. The duo also included open shelving, which provides space to display tableware and allows for a full run of the gorgeous custom chevron backsplash. The walls are painted in a warm white to show off Erin's art collection.

"Erin has a great sense of style – it's a bit eclectic and quirky."

LINDSAY GUENTER, DESIGNER, KELLY DECK DESIGN

RIGHT This sitting area was inspired by Erin's two young stepdaughters. "It has a youthful, fresh, feminine vibe," says designer Kelly Deck. The bench, made from repurposed IKEA bathroom drawers, provides extra storage.

BELOW The new layout is much more efficient and better integrates the working, dining and living areas.



FROM LEFT Aluminum Reidar **CHAIR** in Black, IKEA Stockholm **COFFEE TABLE** in Golden Brown, birch Adel **CABINETRY,** stainless-steel Ringskär **FAUCET,** IKEA.

RIGHT The chevron-patterned backsplash from Edgewater Studios was the jumping-off point for the rest of the palette. Keeping the finishes light and neutral allows room for pops of colour through the fabric selections, artwork and brushed-brass light fixture.

FOR ALL PRODUCT SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

concept #2

THE DESIGN TEAM RYAN MARTIN AND AMY KENT (BOTH SHOWN AT LEFT) AND MICHELLE LAMONTAGNE OF TORONTO-BASED CROMA DESIGN

THE LOOK ORGANIC ELEGANCE

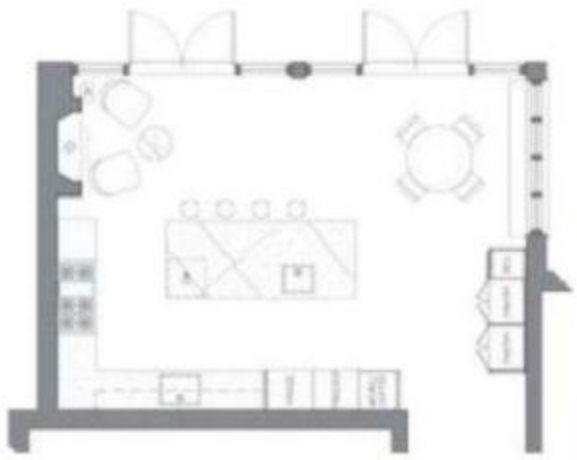
Although the white IKEA cabinetry is a dramatic departure from the existing dark wood, the Croma team felt that an all-white kitchen would look too stark. They countered the white with upper cabinets painted in a soothing grey, which ties into the rest of the home's palette. The sleek, flat-front uniform doors and drawers lend the space a high-end, custom look. Since the kitchen already has a nice flow, they simply put the living areas in their natural places. To integrate the working and living spaces, the fireplace is covered in a polished marble that's carried through in the island top and the herringbone-patterned backsplash. This layout also keeps the existing doors to the back garden, providing the space with a direct route to the outdoors.

"The soothing palette is consistent with the rest of the home."

RYAN MARTIN, DESIGNER, CROMA DESIGN

RIGHT The deep marble-topped island stands out as a statement piece. The Croma team customized the unit with cupboards on both sides, as well as wine storage.

BELOW Focusing on how the kitchen would be used, the team located living areas in their natural spots, allowing the flow to feel uncomplicated.



FROM LEFT Rattan Harola **DINING CHAIR,** Trollsta **TRAY TABLE** in Black, birch Nexus **CABINETRY,** Format **FLOOR LAMP** in Black, IKEA.

RIGHT Although this palette is soft and muted, the interest lies in the mix of geometric patterns. The Croma team chose colours that are timeless and not too trendy, so they'll work with Erin's style as it evolves.

FOR ALL PRODUCT SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

WIN A $25,000 kitchen makeover!

HERE'S HOW:

STEP 1

Style at Home editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** is renovating her kitchen and needs you to help her select one of two functional yet chic designs by two brilliant Canadian design firms, Kelly Deck Design and Croma Design. Go to **styleathome.com/yourdreamkitchen** and choose your favourite kitchen design for Erin.

STEP 2

Thanks for helping Erin decide! Now here's YOUR chance to WIN A BRAND NEW KITCHEN!

- Upload two pictures of your kitchen, explain why it needs an update and you could be eligible to win a $25,000 kitchen courtesy of *Style at Home* and IKEA.
- PLUS, your brand new kitchen will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Style at Home*!

Contest open to residents of Canada who have reached the age of majority in their province of residence, except employees of contest sponsors, their affiliates, members of their immediate families and persons with whom these employees are domiciled. One (1) grand prize will be awarded. Approximate value of the grand prize is $25,000 CDN. Some restrictions apply. No purchase necessary. For complete rules and regulations, go to **styleathome.com/yourdreamkitchen.**

styleathome IKEA

PHOTOGRAPHY, VIRGINIA MACDONALD (KITCHEN), STACEY VAN BERKEL-HAINES (PORTRAIT)

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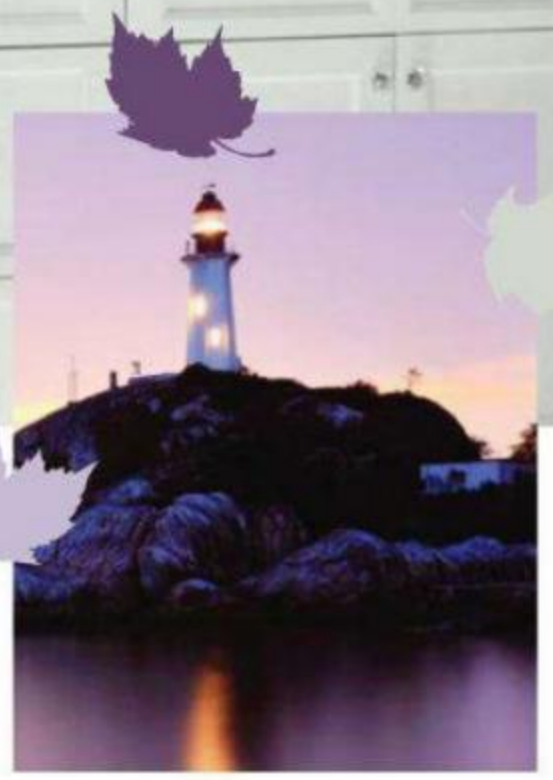
Wall Colour: P5099-24 / lavender lace



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FASHION FORWARD

We're big fans of American fashion designer Peter Som's boldly sophisticated apparel, so we're thrilled about his partnership with esteemed luxury bedding company Sferra. The bed linen collection encapsulates his eclectic, elegant style.

Peter Som for Sferra **BED LINENS** in Newport Floral, from $39, Design Louis George, designlouisgeorge.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES (RUNWAY)

olé! olé!

Spanish designer Patricia Urquiola has just launched Axor Urquiola, a bathroom collection for Hansgrohe. The line of more than 80 pieces includes faucets, tubs, showers and sinks. Patricia's finely detailed pieces create a soothing retreat in this bathroom at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Barcelona.

Wall-mounted **FAUCET,** from $1,030, freestanding **TUB FILLER,** from $3,346, Taps Bath Centre, tapsbath.com.

MODERN CLASSIC

ARNE JACOBSEN CREATED HIS AJ FLOOR LAMP IN 1960, AND IT'S JUST AS CHIC TODAY! WE ALSO LOVE THE NEW IKEA STOCKHOLM LAMP, WHICH EVOKES A SIMILAR VIBE.

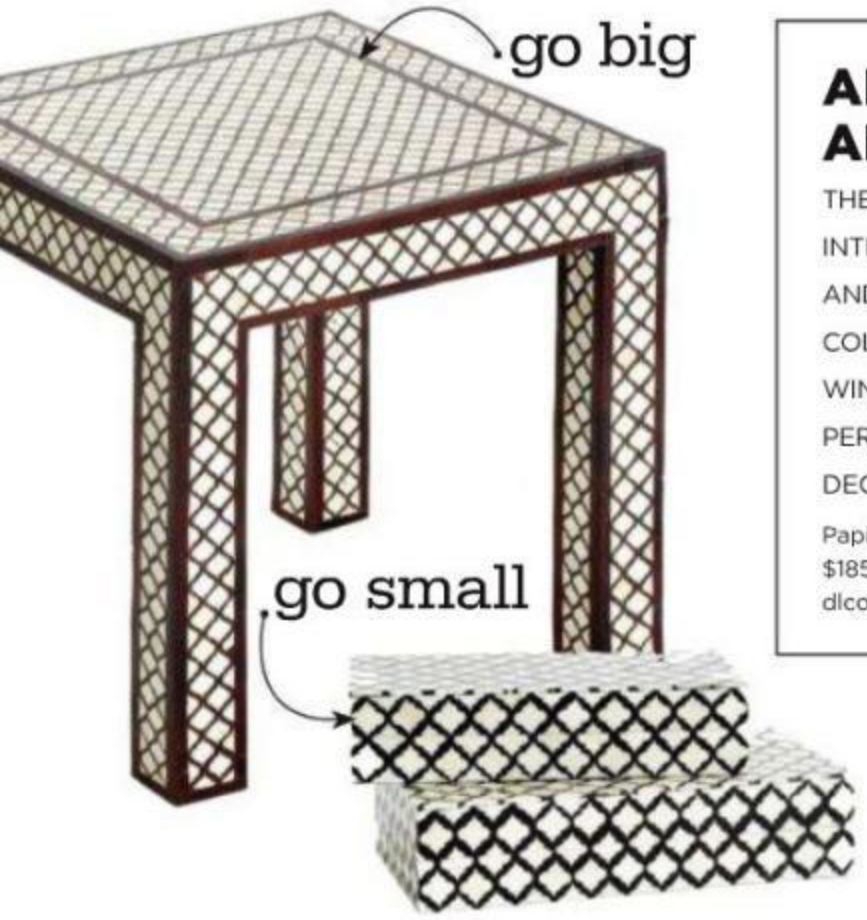
high

AJ **FLOOR LAMP,** $882, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

low

IKEA Stockholm **FLOOR LAMP,** $110, IKEA, ikea.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TRANSCONTINENTAL INTERACTIVE (TABLE, BOXES, PLATES)



HOT RIGHT NOW!

We can't get enough of bone inlay in a Moroccan tile pattern. The high-contrast motif adds a touch of global glamour to any space.

Jamie Young Mughal Bone **SIDE TABLE,** $1,599, L'Atelier, 416-966-0200; wood-lined bone **BOXES,** from $40 each, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

ALL AFLUTTER

THE DELICATE FORMS, INTRICATE PATTERNS AND EYE-CATCHING COLOURS OF BUTTERFLY WINGS MAKE THEM THE PERFECT FODDER FOR DECOR DELICACIES.

Papillon **ACCENT PLATES,** $185 per set of 4, D. L. & Co., dlcompany.com.

DESIGNER PAINT PICKS

NEUTRAL VS. BOLD

"A soft warm blue grey is perfectly elegant. I love it on walls and cabinetry."

Whirlpool 910, Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

"A fantastic Hermès orange that's *not* a bad '70s hue and is so hot now!"

Charlotte's Locks 268, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.

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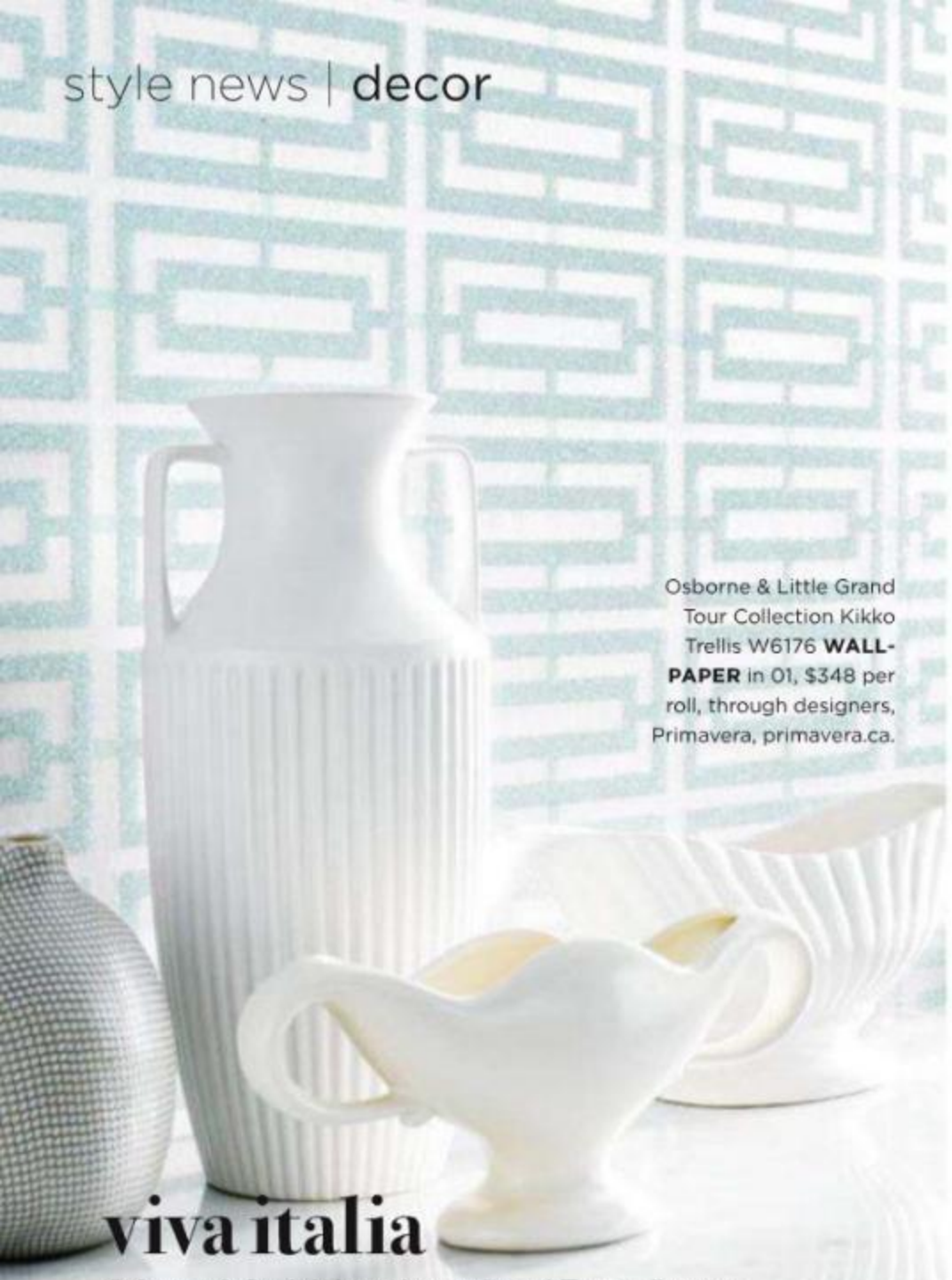

Osborne & Little Grand Tour Collection Kikko Trellis W6176 **WALL-PAPER** in 01, $348 per roll, through designers, Primavera, primavera.ca.

viva italia

Osborne & Little's brand new Grand Tour collection of wallpapers was inspired by the artistic treasures of Italy, as discovered 300 years ago by aristocratic young Englishmen. The pattern shown above features a new technique where tiny pearlised beads form the trellis.

A WANDERFUL LIFE

DESIGNER MARCEL WANDERS CAN NOW ADD ALESSI TO THE LIST OF ILLUSTRIOUS FIRMS HE HAS CREATED PRODUCTS FOR: B & B ITALIA, FLOS, KARTELL, MOOOI, SWAROVSKI, MAGIS... THE LIST GOES ON AND ON!

Alessi stainless-steel Dressed **TRAY,** $143, Bergo Designs, bergo.ca.

fab find

We've been following textile guru Kevin O'Brien for years, lusting after his silk velvet cushions. Kevin has recently partnered with rug company Capel to create a collection of affordable fashion-forward rugs that showcase his love of nature.

Kevin O'Brien for Capel **RUG,** 5' x 8', $699, Kingsmill's, kingsmills.com.

ODE TO JOYCE

We love the soft linen prints in the new Kerry Joyce Textiles collection. The L.A.-based interior designer's fabrics are sure to have an enduring appeal.

FABRIC (from left) Kerry Joyce Flowering Vine in Blue/Raspberry, Julietta in Indigo, and Petite Fleur in Lake Blue, from $264 per yard, through designers, Primavera, primavera.ca.

DECORATOR CLASSIC: BASKET WEAVE

THIS TIMELESS PATTERN IS A GREAT WAY TO ADD TEXTURE TO A ROOM. A CERAMIC BROLLY STAND IN CRISP WHITE FRESHENS UP AN ENTRY.

Emissary Crisscross **UMBRELLA STAND** in White, $118 US, Décor-Décor, decor-decor.com; Cath Kidston **UMBRELLAS,** $30 each, Fulton Umbrellas, 877-538-1950.

DESIGNER PAINT PICKS

NEUTRAL VS. BOLD

"Black is my all-time favourite because it's a grounding element and a strong backdrop for art and furniture."

Midnight 2131-20, Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

"This bold teal has depth and drama! High-gloss teal paint on the inside back of bookshelves creates a surprise pop."

Teal 2055-10, Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

JONATHAN LEGATE, JONATHAN LEGATE INTERIOR CONSULTATION

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TRANSCONTINENTAL INTERACTIVE (FABRICS, UMBRELLA STAND)

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modern cat

Ever feel like pet products are going to the dogs? We've rounded up what's new and chic in cat accessories so your home and your beloved feline are purrfectly in sync.

Adjustable Alligator **COLLARS,** $12 US each, Miss Moustache, missmoustache.com.

Recycled wool Birds of a Sweater **BIRD,** $5 US, Three Sassy Sisters, threesassy-sisters.etsy.com.

The Native American **TEEPEE** for Fluffy Little Critters, $24, Loyal Luxe, loyalluxe.com.

Felt **ROLLERS,** $5 US per set of 3, Modern Cat Studio, moderncat.etsy.com.

Circle **SCRATCH PAD,** $40 US, Modern Cat Studio, moderncat.etsy.com.

Fiji catnip **FORTUNE COOKIES,** $5 US each, Jake & Micah, jakeandmicah.com.

ABOVE Wall-mounted large wave **CAT PERCH,** $150 US, Urban Pet Haus, urbanpethaus.com; Blue Ground 210 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com; framed felt **STARS,** $295, gilt-framed **INTAGLIOS,** $395, Absolutely North, absolutelyinc.com; *In Sync* (large bees), $1,200, *On A Quest* (small bee), $275, **PAINTINGS** by Annette Kraft van Ermel, *Etude II* **PAINTING** by Sheila Davis, $250, Canvas Gallery, canvasgallery.ca; Pollen **VASE,** $55, L'Atelier, 416-966-0200; **RUG,** from $515, Elte, elte.com; **CABINET,** $299, IKEA, ikea.ca.

LEFT Vertical bamboo Itch Amber **SCRATCH PADS** in Mohair Gerbil, $50 US each, Square Cat Habitat, squarecathabitat.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, MICHAEL GRAYDON, RYAN BROOK/TRANSCONTINENTAL INTERACTIVE (BIRD)

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Red Zig Zag **PLACEMAT,** $20 per set of 2, taupe Zig Zag **NAPKIN,** $10, Pehr Designs, pehrdesigns.com.

Mountain Peaks **COSMETICS BAG,** $38, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

Zig Zag **BATH MAT** in Slate and Dandelion, $29 each, West Elm, westelm.com.

Buckley Chevron **VASES,** from $32 US each, Jill Rosenwald, etsy.com/shop/jillrosenwald.

Margot **CHAIR,** $1,530, Maria Tomás, mariatomas.com.

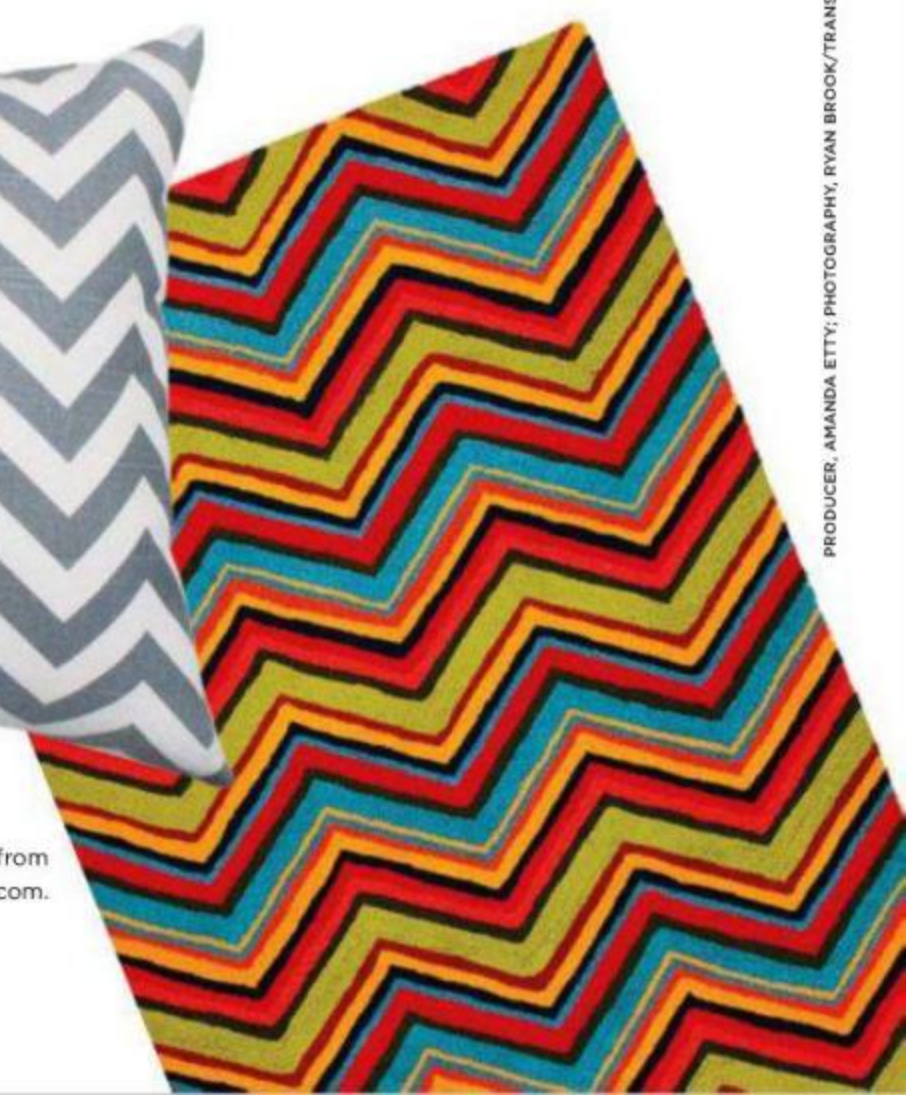
zigzags

At once classic and edgy, chevron goes bold in brilliant colourways and arresting textures.

Grey wool Zig Zag **THROW,** $250 US, Jonathan Adler, jonathanadler.com.

Grey Flatiron **CUSHION,** 18" x 18", $30, Tonic Living, tonicliving.com.

Cement ZigZag **TILES** in Kohl/Milk, 8" x 8", $24 US per sq. ft., Popham Design, pophamdesign.com.



Himalaya **OUTDOOR RUG,** from $48, Company C, companyc.com.

PRODUCER, AMANDA ETTY; PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TRANSCONTINENTAL INTERACTIVE (PLACEMAT, CHAIR)

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CURVE appeal

Nouveau **KNOBS,** $10 each, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

Vervain linen Mon Plaisir **FABRIC,** $174 per yard, through designers, Bilbrough & Co., bilbroughs.com.

the inspiration

The path of inspiration often travels off the runway and through the front door. This ladylike dress from Jill Stuart's Fall 2011 collection has colours – coral, camel and metallics – and design details that are perfect references for creating a feminine bathroom with a touch of Moroccan flair.

Fleur d'Oranger 27 **PERFUME,** $132, **MASSAGE & BATH OIL,** $62, Gee Beauty, geebeauty.com.

Alexa Hampton quatrefoil Basil **LIGHT FIXTURE** in Natural Brass, $420, Circa Lighting, circalighting.com.

Provinity **VANITY,** $4,580, Kohler, kohler.ca.

Henry **LAVATORY FAUCET,** $1,245, Ginger's, gingers.com.

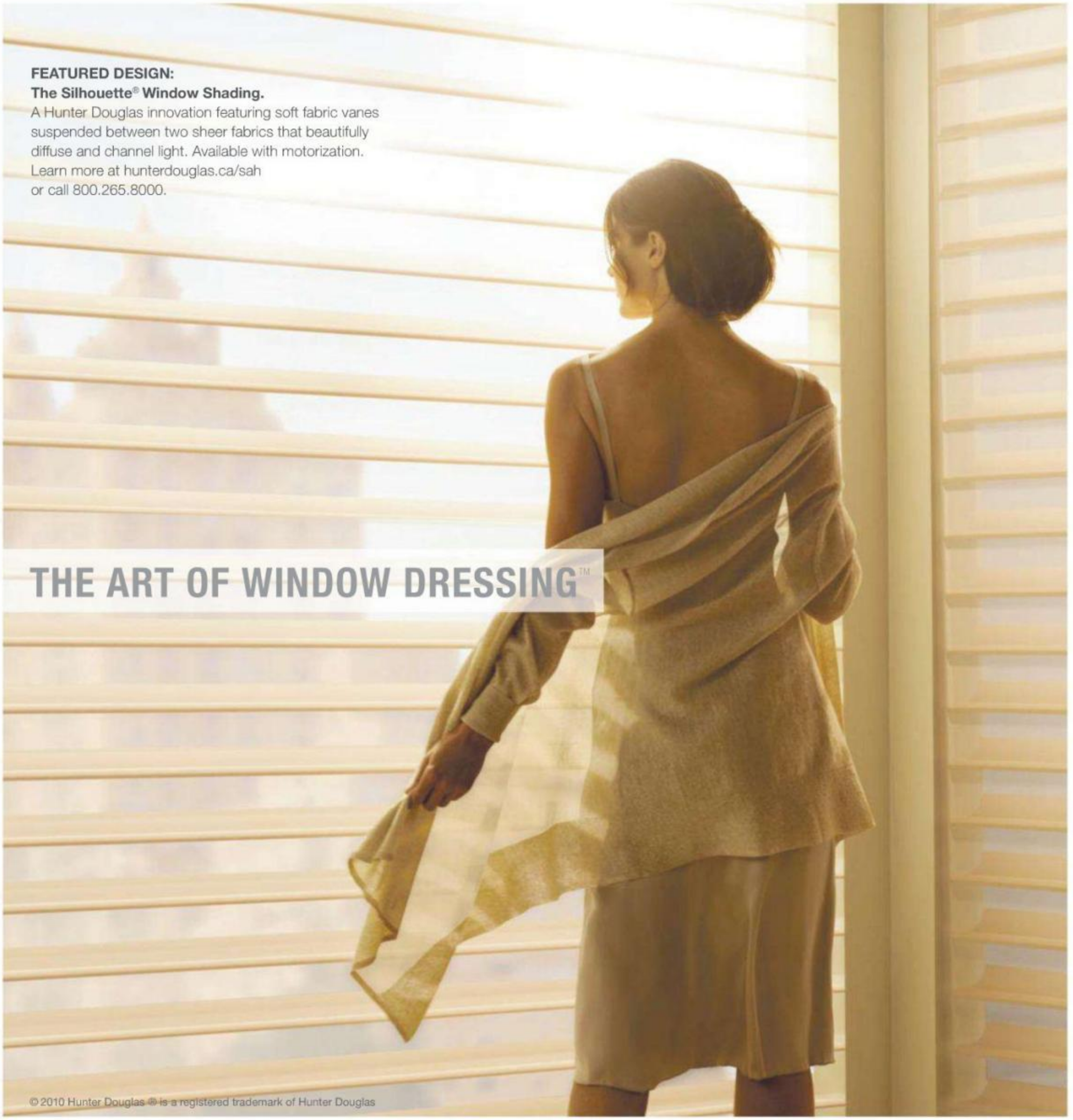
Fiona **MIRROR** in bone finish, $1,200 US, Made Goods, madegoods.com.

Custom art glass Maven mosaic **TILE,** 12" x 12", $95 per sq. ft., Edgewater Studio, edgewaterstudio.com.

FROM LEFT Refracted Ambiance **JAR,** $22, The Chemist's **JAR,** $38, The Baker's **JAR,** $28, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

Martha Stewart Living Peony MSL013 **PAINT,** $36 per gallon, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

PRODUCER, MARGOT AUSTIN; RESEARCH, VANESSA BOTTONI; PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TRANSCONTINENTAL INTERACTIVE (FABRIC, BEAUTY PRODUCTS, TILE, JARS)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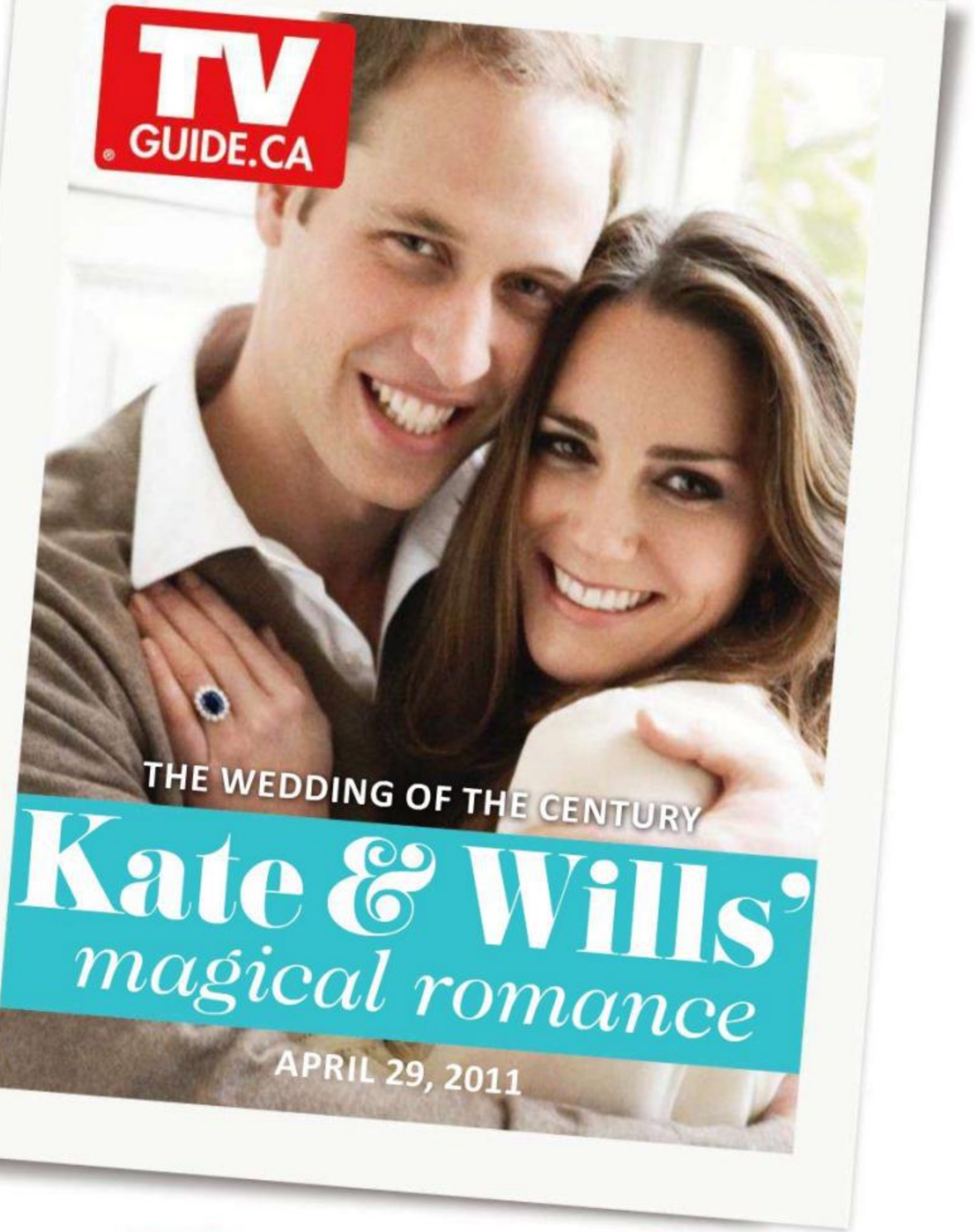

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LOOK FOR IT ON NEWSSTANDS

SPECIAL **ISSUE**

IDEAS FOR EVERY ROOM AND STYLE

LOOK FOR IT NOW ON NEWSSTANDS

new **collector's edition**

top **75**
EASY, NO-FAIL
styling secrets from our editors

top **113**
paint colours
AND WHERE TO USE THEM

top **20**
PRODUCTS TO
bring the designer look home

top **30**
WAYS TO
get away with the unexpected

more
insider tips you've always wanted to know

THE SUPERHERO OF STYLE

WHO Thom Filicia, celebrity designer (of furniture, accessories and interiors), author and television personality.

WHY WE LOVE THOM He's the chief of chic, known for his inspiring interiors and for famously saving straight men from certain design doom on the hit show *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* (2003-2007).

PRODUCER SARA CATION

STYLE AT HOME When designing a small space, where do you start?

THOM FILICIA Be efficient with the way you use space. Make it multi-functional – your communal areas should be able to go from everyday to evening entertaining. To maximize space, you have to understand furniture layout, traffic flow, lighting and storage (which is a big deal in a small space). Be clever integrating those elements, and use designer tricks.

What kinds of tricks?

Applying high-gloss paint to the ceiling to make a room seem taller. And using mirrors to open up a room. A mirror can be used in a way where you don't see it as a mirror but rather as the illusion of having space. It's very effective. If a small space has only one window, you can create the illusion of two windows with an extra mirror, which will also bounce light into the room.

What's your No. 1 small-space secret?

Be dynamic. Think about meeting someone who's short but has a dynamic, outrageous personality that makes them seem tall. That

PHOTOGRAPHY, ERIC PIASECKI (INTERIORS), NEIL CRAVER (PORTRAIT)

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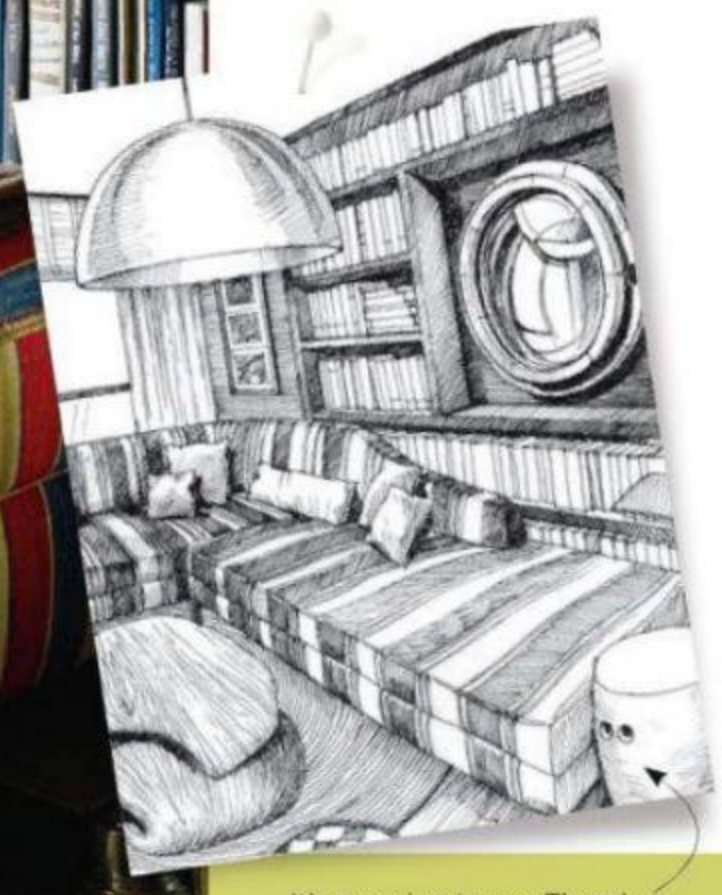
applies to interiors as well: when you put small, dinky furniture in a small, dinky space, that space will feel even smaller. Instead, isolate your anchor pieces and give them generous breathing room, then go smaller scale with everything else. Or pair a great big sofa with reading lights or a hanging fixture instead of end tables. Small spaces that are comfortable, accommodating and thoughtful in terms of the use of space suddenly don't feel that tiny anymore.

Do you take risks?

I always say, "The smaller the space, the bigger the risk." I'm a firm believer in personalizing your space – you want it to tell your story. What's a big risk for me might be safe for somebody else or over the top for another person. Risk is relative to budget, frame of mind, point of view and aesthetic. Whether you're a conservative person on a conservative budget or a flamboyant person on a flamboyant budget, whatever the risk, make it bigger in a smaller space.



It's amazing to see Thom's plans from idea to execution!

PHOTOGRAPHY, ERIC PIASECKI (INTERIORS), ILLUSTRATION, THOM FILICIA

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What about colour? How can it make a room feel larger?
I've seen very small spaces done in light colours that worked well, and I've also seen them done beautifully in dark, saturated shades. Some people feel that light tones open up a room, while a lot of designers think that in darker rooms the walls recede, and there's merit to both opinions. It's important to mix light and dark to have things pop off one another. It gives a space energy.

What do you recommend in terms of furniture?
Because small spaces often have lower ceiling heights, they benefit from lower, leaner furniture lines. For example, when I design small bedrooms, I use reduced-size box springs and prop the beds down lower to give more volume to the space. In a petite entry, you want to think about getting things out of the way – look for pieces that are interesting as a sculpture but can also be used as a coat rack. I have what looks like a tree sculpture when it's empty, but it's a functional coat rack when company comes.

What's your favourite room to decorate?
The powder room is the perfect surprise. It can be a playground because it's used infrequently – it's really for your guests. It can be fun, a little wacky and not what you want to see every morning, but it should always have a bit of the unexpected.

chic SMALL-SPACE solutions

FROM THOM FILICIA'S FURNITURE LINE

"I designed this sofa so it splays out and the seat cushion, which is about six feet long, extends beyond the arms – so you can sleep on it even if you're longer than it, and you can sprawl out without raising your feet."

Thom Filicia Manlius **SOFA,** 35" x 79" x 40", from $3,365, Elte, elte.com.

"I love this lean chair for a small space."

Thom Filicia Greek Peak **SIDECHAIR,** 21" x 25" x 34", $1,015, Elte, elte.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, ERIC PIASECKI (INTERIORS)

Small on space but big on style, **STYLEATHOME.COM/SMALLSPACES.**

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high OR low?

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An effortlessly elegant dressing room gets dolled up in Tiffany blue and turquoise on a diva and demure budget.

PRODUCER CHRISTINE HANLON | **TEXT** SARA CATION | **PHOTOGRAPHY** NINA TEIXEIRA

$12,965

Hooker Furniture leather-topped Seven Seas **DRESSING TABLE,** $1,360, Stoney Creek Furniture, stoneycreekfurniture.com. Fruitwood 18th-century **CHAIR,** $1,875 per set of 2, Convex Dorian **MIRROR,** 24", $685, Ribbehege & Azevedo, ribbehegeand-azevedo.com. Redford House white alder wood Swedish **DRESSER,** $2,877, restored vintage Liat **CHANDELIER** in Antique White, $835, Au Lit Fine Linens, aulitfinelinens.com. Wool/silk Dorothy **RUG** in Blue/Grey, 9' x 12', $3,785, Elte, elte.com. Thai Silk **DRAPERY PANEL** in Optic White, 50" x 96", $259, large Estate Silver **ROD,** 6', $95, large Ball **FINIAL,** $89 per pair, **RINGS,** $54 per pack of 7, Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com. Teal grosgrain 8900 **RIBBON** (on drapery), $14 per metre, Mokuba, 416-364-5144. Ceramic Antique-Finish garden **STOOL** in Apple Green, $375, Teatro Verde, teatroverde.com. **SCARF,** $130, Winners, winners.ca. Vintage Coach Heritage **HANDBAG,** $450, REmix Clothing, remix.ca.

$5,040

Solid pine Edland **DRESSING TABLE** with clear lacquered finish, $249, IKEA, ikea.ca. Josephine **CHAIR** upholstered in Charlene Wedgewood, $1,164, Ethan Allen, ethanallen.com. Round Soleil **MIRROR,** 27", $49, President's Choice Home Collection, pc.ca. Boudoir **DRESSER** in Country White, $949, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.ca. Hampton Bay Heritage 6-light **CHANDELIER** in Antique White, $189, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca. Wool Mia Wallace **RUG** in Blue/Light Grey, 9' x 12', $1,745, Elte, elte.com. Polyester PT Milano **DRAPERY PANEL** in Winter White, 50" x 96", $190, pewter Connections **ROD,** 6', $45, silver Connections Mozart Ball **FINIAL,** $45 per pair, silver Connections **RINGS,** $13 per pack of 10, inVU Drapery Co., invudraperyco.com. Teal Herringbone 5700 **RIBBON** (on drapery), $8 per metre, Mokuba, 416-364-5144. Green ceramic garden **STOOL,** $150, Pier 1 Imports, pier1.ca. **SCARF,** $15, Winners, winners.ca. Vintage Kate Spade **HANDBAG,** $200, REmix Clothing, remix.ca.

A THING OF **BEAUTY**

This shapely desk with graceful curves and elegant edges features a drop-front drawer and a luxe leather top. It's a stylish station where you can paint your lips and put on your jewels before enjoying a glamorous night on the town.

Hooker Furniture Seven Seas **DRESSING TABLE,** $1,360, Stoney Creek Furniture, stoneycreekfurniture.com.

it's all in the detail

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HIGH Redford House Swedish with brass hardware, $2,877, Au Lit Fine Linens, aulitfinelinens.com.

LOW Boudoir in Country White with silver hardware, $949, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.ca.

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Can you spot the high and low? You can create a calming nursery by starting with a palette of soothing green and white. ❶ An off-white chair is the perfect cozy spot to read bedtime stories. ❷ Toys and books are neatly tucked away – but kept easily on hand – in chic but practical white storage containers. ❸ With its dramatic butterfly design, a Scotties nature-inspired tissue cube creates a unique focal point in an otherwise neutral room. ❹ A fluffy shag rug adds contemporary style and is soft underfoot for baby's first steps.

Designed with a **HIGH** budget on the left. Designed with a **LOW** budget on the right.

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TRUE BLUE

One of the best things about having a dressing room is the opportunity to style it with your everyday favourites – the things you love, the things you use. *Style at Home* contributing design editor Christine Hanlon spread out pretty perfume bottles, polishes, scarves and shoes as accents throughout the room, all in a range of greens and blues that match the dressing room's Tiffany blue accent colour.

"PLANNING TO PAINT STRIPES ON YOUR WALLS? MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A TALL LADDER AND A LOT OF PATIENCE!"

CHRISTINE HANLON, *STYLE AT HOME* CONTRIBUTING DESIGN EDITOR

earn your stripes

Striped walls may be a tall order, but these tips will give you a good start!

PICK YOUR COLOURS. AIM FOR HIGH CONTRAST, ADVISES CHRISTINE.

PAINT THE FULL WALL IN THE LIGHTER OF YOUR CHOSEN COLOURS.

MEASURE THE WIDTH OF YOUR ENTIRE WALL AND DIVIDE INTO EQUAL PARTS TO DETERMINE THE WIDTH OF YOUR DARKER-COLOURED STRIPES.

USE A PENCIL TO MARK EACH STRIPE AT THE TOP AND BOTTOM OF THE WALL.

PLACE THE TAPE ON THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR MARKINGS FOR EACH DARK-COLOURED STRIPE.

TIP USE HIGH-QUALITY PAINTER'S TAPE TO AVOID BLEEDS AND SMUDGES, ENSURING THERE ARE NO BUBBLES.

Cabbage White 269, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.

Arsenic 214, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.

HIGH-LOW METER

From silver and crystal to platinum and bronze, hardware is like jewellery for your home – it's the perfect way to dress a room to the nines. So don't overlook the sparkle you can introduce through **DRAPERY RODS, FINIALS AND RINGS.** Here are some of our favourites from the silver spectrum.

HIGHER | $238

Large Estate Silver **ROD,** 6', $95, large Ball **FINIAL,** $89 per pair, **RINGS,** $54 per pack of 7, Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com.

HIGH | $103

Pewter Connections **ROD,** 6', $45, silver Connections Mozart Ball **FINIAL,** $45 per pair, silver Connections **RINGS,** $13 per pack of 10, inVU Drapery Co., invudraperyco.com.

LOW | $48

Martha Stewart Living Hemisphere **ROD & FINIAL SET** in Satin Nickel, 6', $37, Inner Diameter Burnished Brass **RINGS,** $11 per pack of 7, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

LOWER | $38

Ball **ROD & FINIAL SET** in Nickel, 6', $30, large clip **RINGS,** $8 per pack of 7, Umbra, umbra.com.

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THE COFFEE TABLE

Designer and TV personality **Tommy Smythe** shares his favourite pieces of furniture and accessories – from his own home to yours!

THIS IS TOMMY'S PARSONS-STYLE COFFEE TABLE. WE SAT DOWN TO CHAT WITH HIM ABOUT WHY HE CHOSE IT AND WHY IT WORKS.

STYLE AT HOME Let's talk coffee tables.

TOMMY SMYTHE My coffee table is a Mid-Century Modern example of a Parsons-style table. But it's a Parsons-style table with a little bit of detail and embellishment. It has jewellery!

I bought my coffee table from a vintage-furniture dealer. It has a spectacularly thick and heavy white marble top, which is very hard to come by now, and legs that are a little bit fine. So it's this very heavy material supported by a lighter, less-dense frame.

Pointing 2003 **WALL PAINT**, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com; Parsons-style **COFFEE TABLE**, glass **BOWL**, ChairTableLamp, chairtablelamp.blogspot.com; Jens **CHAIR** in Walnut, Design Within Reach, dwr.com; Oscar de la Renta **RUG**, Y & Co., ycocarpet.com; letter **T**, Absolutely, absolutelyinc.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, MICHAEL GRAYDON

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TOMMY'S TOP THREE COFFEE TABLES

LOW

Smart round with marble top, $349, CB2, cb2.com.

MEDIUM

Aged elm Dutch Industrial, $1,095, Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com.

HIGH

Bolier Atelier figured-walnut veneer cocktail, $2,640, South Hill Home, southhillhome.com.

How do you choose what style and size of coffee table to use in a room?

Well, certainly the size of the room itself and the other furniture in the space will dictate how large a coffee table you can have, but my rule is to go as big as you can! For traffic flow around a coffee table, you only need between 18 to 20 inches – you don't want the table too far away from your furniture because you're going to have to put your drink down at some point. I also like a lot of surface area. I love my stuff, and I want it close at hand.

Your take on coffee tables versus ottomans?

I'm not opposed to the ottoman, but I think it belongs in a very specific place, like in a family room or a recreation-type environment rather than in a formal living room. I also don't believe that the ottoman should completely replace the coffee table. A portion of an ottoman should have space for a generously sized tray so there is a flat surface to place food and beverages on – food and drinks should never go directly on an ottoman, as it's dangerous and unwise.

There are so many options, people don't know what to choose. Is there an ideal coffee table shape?

I think it definitely depends on the space and the furniture arrangement. If your furniture placement is done in the round, a round coffee table makes sense. But a round coffee table isn't practical when you have a rectangular grouping of furniture. If you pair a long sofa with a round coffee table, for instance, the people at either end of the sofa have to lean way forward or maybe even stand up to be able to put their drinks down on the table. In that case, make sure there are very roomy side tables at either end of the sofa. To me, it's always about practicality: I always want to have a place to put something down, and if there's nowhere to do this, I feel uncomfortable.

What about coffee table height?

The coffee table definitely has to be the correct height, which is determined, interestingly, by your sofa, not by the scale of the room or the ceiling height. It should be equal to seat height because you don't want to hunch over too far and you don't want to reach up too high. Average seat height is 16 to 18 inches off the floor.

What's your rule about proportion in relation to the sofa?

A coffee table shouldn't be equal in length to or longer than the sofa – it should be at least eight to 12 inches less than the sofa's length. It's always seen layered in front of another piece, so the relationship to what's behind that table is important.

Any modern suggestions for the traditionalist?

The coffee table is a very, very easy way to inject a hit of modern into an otherwise traditional environment. A basic block of wood veneer in a burled finish would be brilliant with a much more formal sofa, for example. Simple glass coffee tables float beautifully in traditional environments and sort of disappear. So if you have a very ornate sofa, you might default to a quite simple and transparent coffee table.

FOR TOMMY'S COFFEE TABLE STYLING TIPS, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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people always *ask us*

The stars of the TV show *Steven and Chris* are the go-to source for design dilemmas. This issue, they give advice on how to decorate a mantel.

CREATING A VISUALLY PLEASING VIGNETTE

on a mantel can be a source of frustration for some. There is no magic formula, but there are a few key things to keep in mind. We always follow what we like to call the "triangle theory." Here's an example of how it works.

STEP 1 Take your largest piece and centre it on the mantel. Go for something reflective like an oversized mirror.

Songe **MIRROR,** $100, IKEA, ikea.ca.

STEP 2 Layer smaller pieces like photos or artwork in front of the mirror.

STEP 3 On the left side, add an object with movement. We love tall candle holders – they lend height and warmth. At this point, a triangle shape should start to form. Remember to stand back every so often, squint and adjust accordingly.

Manhattan **CANDLE HOLDERS,** $295 (small), $345 (medium), Elte, elte.com.

STEP 4 Always try to include something that shows off your personality, such as a souvenir from your travels.

Wooden **BUDDHA,** $210, Jalan, jalantoronto.com.

STEP 5 On the right side, incorporate an element with visual weight – a glass cylinder vase filled with tall, wispy branches, for example.

STEP 6 Finish off the vignette with accessories that can vary in height like books and boxes.

Orange lacquered **BOX,** $270, 1212 Decor, 1212decor.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, GREG PAUST (PORTRAIT), RYAN BROOK/TRANSCONTINENTAL INTERACTIVE (CANDLE HOLDERS, BUDDHA, BOX, VASE); ILLUSTRATION, NICOLE PERRY

Steven Sabados and **Chris Hyndman** are the hosts of the lifestyle show *Steven and Chris*. Watch them weekdays at 2 p.m. on CBC. Catch editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** monthly on the show as a guest expert. If you have a design dilemma, email Steven and Chris at askstevenandchris@cbc.ca.

Steven and Chris dish more about design, **STYLEATHOME.COM/STEVENANDCHRIS.**

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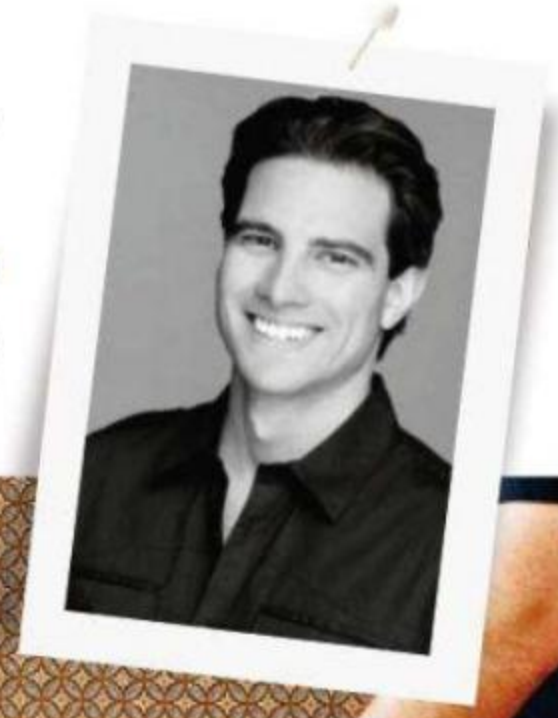
TEXT SCOTT MCGILLIVRAY

AVERAGE JOE vs. reno pro

When it comes to renovation, I've tried just about everything – but that doesn't mean it's been the best decision. If it's work that requires a licensed trade, you may be doing more harm than good by taking matters into your own hands. Here are some tasks a novice can complete with great results... and some you shouldn't attempt yourself.



AVERAGE JOE

Project #1: Painting This doesn't mean it requires no skill – I've seen some horrific paint jobs, but with some patience and preparation, painting is a great DIY project. A 1,500-square-foot house takes about two days to paint, and it would cost about $2,500 to have a professional come in to do it. Either way, it should have about a 250 percent return on investment (taking into account the home's total cost). So whether you DIY or hire a pro, the job is worth about $6,250.

Project #2: Insulating Framed Walls I often see houses with energy wastage from lack of insulation on walls and in headers. The installation of batt insulation is simple and has immediate results. The average 700-square-foot basement takes about a day to insulate, and the labour would cost about $1,200. Insulation has about a 150 percent return on investment, so it adds about $1,800 in value. If I'm working with a homeowner who has no construction experience, one of the first tasks I'll suggest is installing insulation.

RENO PRO

Project #1: Electrical Work Electrical work is something that requires a licensed trade, and rightfully so. No electrical work should be completed without an Electrical Safety Authority inspection. Unsafe or improper wiring can cause electrocution or fire.

Project #2: Plumbing Plumbers are also licensed trades. I've seen improper plumbing connections that have led to flooding, backups, clogged drains, and seepage of sewage gases into the home. Changing a faucet is one thing, but if you're adding in or moving your plumbing fixture, a licensed plumber should be contracted and the work will require permits and an inspection.

painting tips

1 Protect the floors. **2** Remove receptacle and switch cover plates. **3** Tape your edges if you aren't steady with the brush.

insulating tips

1 Most walls are framed on 16-inch centres, and Roxul insulation comes ready to fit between those frames. **2** Start at the top of the wall and work down, cutting the last piece to fit. **3** Use a bread knife to slice the insulation for a perfect fit. You can do an entire basement in one afternoon; the reward is saving up to 20 percent on your energy bill.

Small jobs like painting and insulating are simple, rewarding and won't require a permit, which is where DIY shines. Now, having said that, there are many construction tasks that are better left to the pros. At the end of the day, whatever project you choose to take on should be attainable, safe and fulfilling. **Be ambitious – but don't be a hero.**

PHOTOGRAPHY, TIM LEYES, COURTESY OF HGTV CANADA (PORTRAIT)

Scott McGillivray is the host of HGTV's *Income Property*. Catch all-new episodes back to back Mondays at 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on HGTV.

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LEFT This world-weary exterior was in dire straits when *Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin took matters in hand. A fresh colour scheme, a garage door installed by Automated Garage Doors, new windows and shutters, plus a well-considered gardenscape transform the lot with energy and a cheerful, polished appeal. An often overlooked yet important element of planning a garden is to choose a planting palette that complements the colour and style of your home: the smaller the garden, the more important it is that your plot harmonizes well with the exterior of your home.

easy street

Classic updates to key details and a fresh foliage makeover transform this suburban semi into a roadside attraction.

TEXT SANDRA MACGREGOR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** VIRGINIA MACDONALD

Come June, it's not just our rooms that are in need of summer lovin'. As birds and blooms appear in full force, what better way to welcome the season than to brighten up a seen-better-days façade into a verdant, country-style oasis? That's the question *Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin asked herself when faced with the exterior of this suburban semi-detached house she refurbished into a striking gem.

Every masterpiece needs the perfect frame and, as Erin well knows, a house is no different. In this instance, the west-end Toronto family home was in need of some serious TLC. A victim of benign neglect for several years, the home's façade required some structural changes and a polished new paint scheme to best set off the re-energized yard. Besides new plantings that provide a vibrant burst of colour all season, the list included a pretty Garaga carriage house-style garage door. Erin wanted an electric door with timeless appeal, one that would give personality to the home, as well as a touch of old-world charm reminiscent of a vintage country estate. Garaga's option has a panel of clear panoramic glass along the top, and forged-iron-style knockers, which immediately set the stage for the look of the revamped exterior.

New windows were a necessity, both for

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the shopping list

- Insulated steel Townships Collection Eastman Estate **GARAGE DOOR** in Dark Sand with a top row of panoramic glass, 8' x 7', CarGo 700e **DOOR OPENER,** Garaga, garaga.com.
- Lis-style **HINGES** with forged-iron-look knockers, Garaga, garaga.com.
- Extruded-aluminum Energy Star-rated Elite Series Fusion casement **WINDOWS** in Pebble, Ply Gem, plygem.ca.
- Variform rustic polymer shingle **SIDING** in Natural Almond, finished in a random staggered pattern, Ply Gem, plygem.ca.
- Richwood raised-panel **SHUTTERS** in Spanish Moss with advanced UV stabilizers, Ply Gem, plygem.ca.
- Thorny Branch S-H-780 **PAINT** on stairs, porch and latticework, Behr, behr.com.

RIGHT The existing stairs and porch railing were shaky and not up to code. Erin reimagined the walkway with a sturdier construction and an impressive colour that blends in with the new scheme. **BOTTOM LEFT** Hanging baskets filled with geraniums and impatiens are a bright contrast to the dark greens, blues and brick tones. **BOTTOM RIGHT** A colourful garden bench on the porch creates a comfy space to watch the world go by.

PAINT WITH THE VERY BEST

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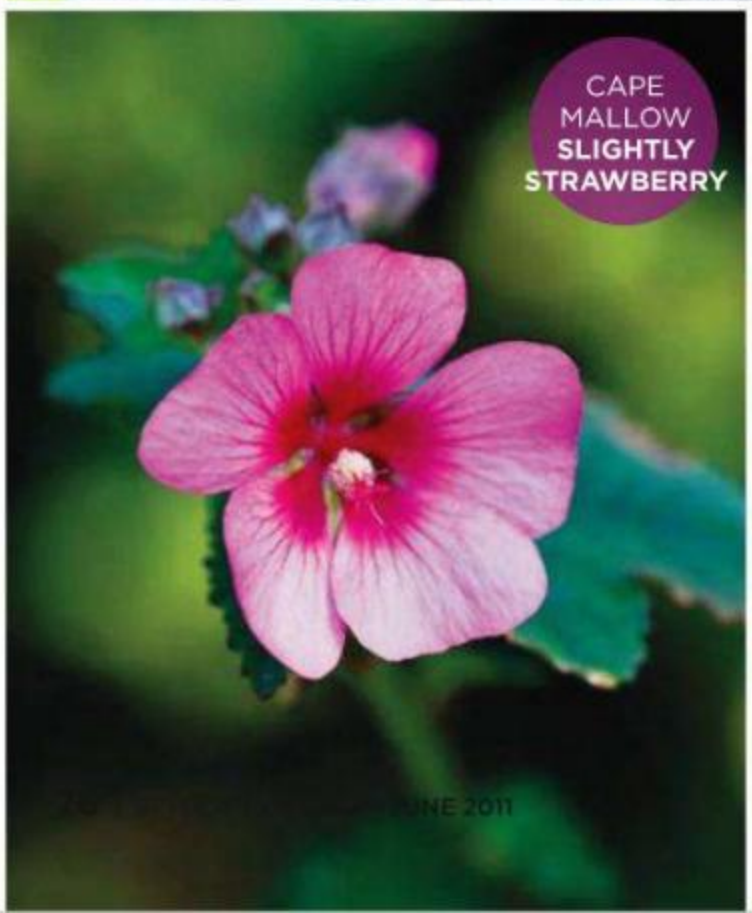
LEFT Colour plays a large part in the revamped garden. Pink, purple, blue and bright green specimens from Sheridan Nurseries and Proven Winners mix and mingle happily to create an urban cottage feel.

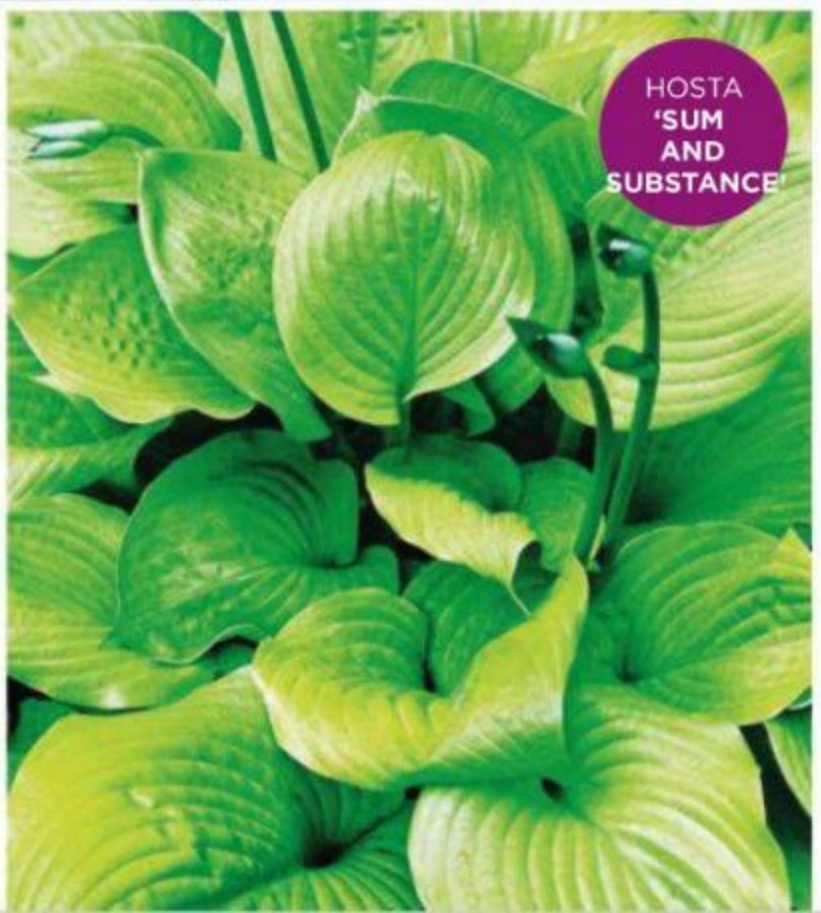
CURB APPEAL IS YOUR HOME'S FIRST IMPRESSION – YOU ALWAYS WANT IT TO BE INVITING.

aesthetics and energy efficiency. The pros at Ply Gem recommended their Energy Star-rated Elite Series Fusion casement windows to add to the classic country feel and provide a seamless match to the garage door. The roof was reshingled, and the existing rickety staircase and banister were replaced with sturdy constructs to bring them up to code. Shutters and mullions were added to the windows to complete the casual cottage-in-the-city look. The door was freshly painted for neat and trim appeal, while the stairs and porch were given a coat of Behr's subdued yet stately Thorny Branch S-H-780.

Once those details were complete, Erin turned her attention to the garden. She selected vivid yellows, purples and blues in lobelia, verbena, petunias and phlox to highlight the more restrained, earthy shades of heucheras and hostas. A trailing sweet potato vine leads the eye down to a mass of abundant bright colour – a trademark of a flourishing country garden. "Groundcovers anchor the space," Erin says. "That's especially important when the garden lies on a slope, as this one does." Filling in the gaps are fragrant spearmint, lavender and lemon thyme, with a velvety dark brown mulch from Fafard.

As a finishing touch, flower boxes and hanging baskets overflowing with playful pink impatiens call a cheery hello to passersby. The result is a charming, friendly face turned to the world.





PHOTOGRAPHY, GAP PHOTOS (PLANTS, PREVIOUS PAGE AND THIS PAGE)

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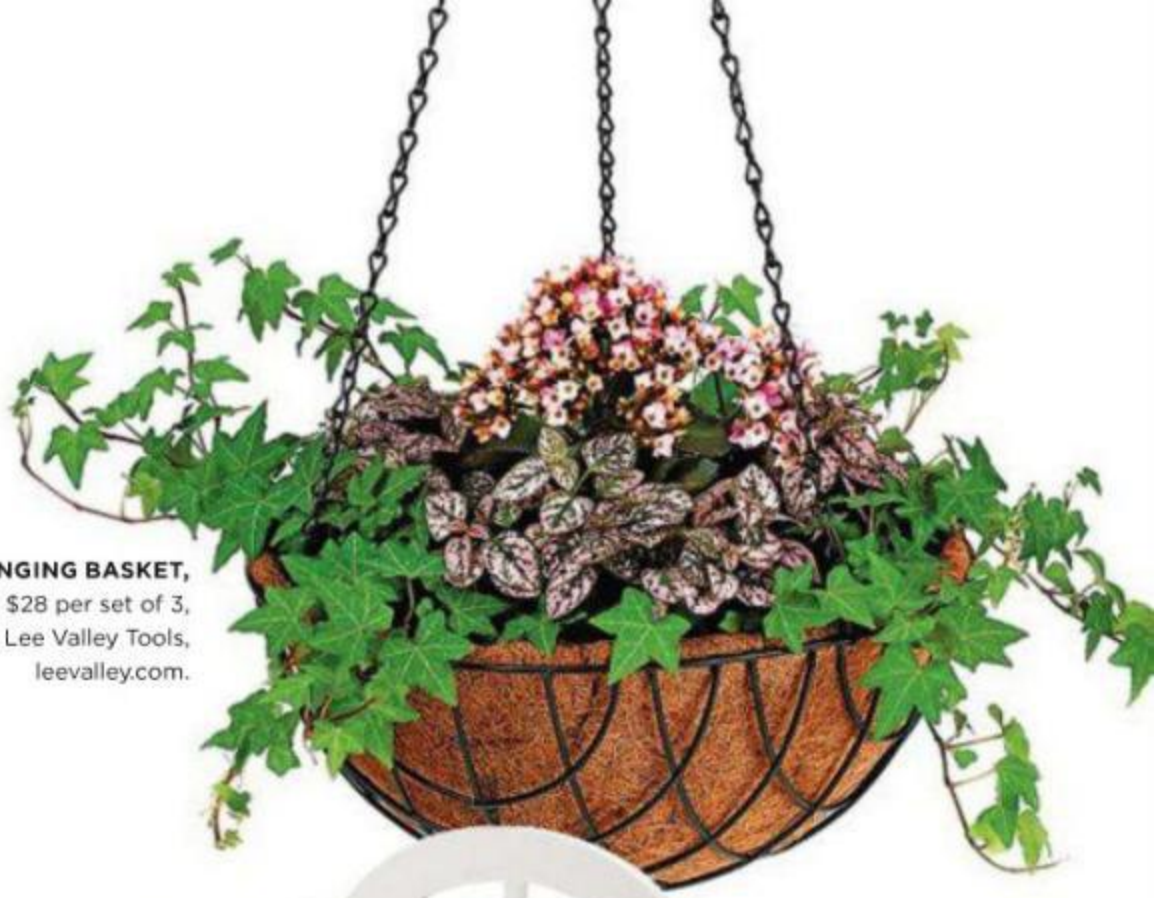
Ceramix Versailles **PLANT POT** in Green Leaf, 8", $11, Garant, garant.com.



HANGING BASKET, 14", $28 per set of 3, Lee Valley Tools, leevalley.com.

Sunda Stripe outdoor **CUSHIONS** in Pebble, 16" x 16", $25 each, Tonic Living, tonicliving.com.

Estate Marlborough **BENCH,** $3,436, Gloster, gloster.com.

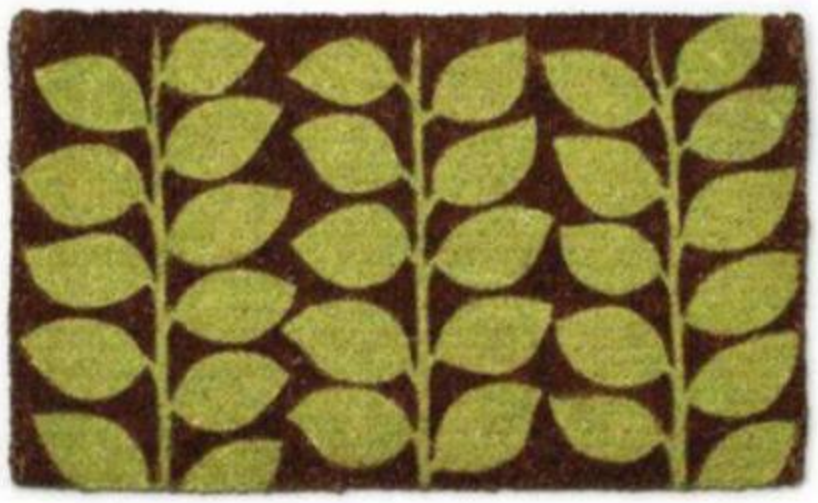
The Ring **DOOR KNOCKER** in Solid Bronze, 5½", $260, Ginger's, gingersbath.com.

North Hatley carriage-style **GARAGE DOOR** in Claystone with Cascade Claystone clear glass window inserts, standard hinges & handles, $1,600, Garaga, garaga.com.

urban cottage

Here's what you need for a striking, well-tailored façade that just begs your neighbours to stop and stare!

Stratford **PLANTER,** $49, Lee Valley Tools, leevalley.com.



Brown-and-green leaf coir **DOORMAT,** $27, Abbott, abbottcollection.com.

Richwood by Ply Gem raised-panel **SHUTTER** in Winestone, $60 US per pair, Ply Gem, plygem.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TRANSCONTINENTAL INTERACTIVE (DOOR KNOCKER)

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LET THE sun shine in

Style at Home contributing design editor Christine Hanlon refreshes her living and dining rooms with a few sunny updates. We asked her how she did it.

PHOTOGRAPHY VIRGINIA MACDONALD

INJECT COLOUR

"I'm lucky to be surrounded by inspiration every day. I get to work with a lot of talented people and see new products and trends before they're even made public," says *Style at Home* contributing design editor Christine Hanlon. "I've come to learn that decor styles change almost as quickly as fashion trends." That attitude serves her well, especially in her own home, where she can test out her latest design crushes without completely reinventing each room. In her living room, for instance, Christine retained most of her core pieces but injected new life into the space with citrine (a shade she plucked from the runway). A laid-back aesthetic, fresh, sunny tones and Asian silhouettes give the classic framework refined, plush interest.

COFFEE TABLE, ChairTable-Lamp; **RUG,** West Elm; **LAMPS,** Crate and Barrel.

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MAKE FABRIC FLEXIBLE
Christine's choice of a modern geometric fabric on the sofa gives the piece casual appeal, despite its traditional shape. The fabric reads as a solid neutral from afar, allowing Christine the flexibility to easily update the cushions should she want to.

DRAPERY, SOFA & toile **CUSHION FABRIC,** Designer Fabrics; **CUSHION FABRIC,** Bilbrough & Co.

COMBINE LUXE & LESS
The treasured quartz cluster sculpture was a splurge, while the vintage white planter was a secondhand purchase. Christine loves to display a variety of floral arrangements in a room; she believes they add an essential touch to a fresh and inviting space.

Quartz Cluster **SCULPTURE,** Anthropologie; white **PLANTER,** The Door Store.

HIT THE BOOKS
"I love books and magazines anywhere, but they look especially great stacked on a coffee table, where they work as the foundation to showcase other *objets*," says Christine. A voracious reader of design books, Christine's arrangements are never in situ for very long.

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PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TRANSCONTINENTAL INTERACTIVE; INSET PHOTOGRAPHY (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT), VIRGINIA MACDONALD, EDWARD POND, ANGUS MCRITCHIE

PLAY WITH PATINA
The classic fireplace is one of Christine's favourite features in the room. The wall sconces, chandelier and coffee table – moved from the family room to take pride of place here – all have warm golden tones that glow against the creamy white backdrop. Inexpensive Parsons tables on either side of the fireplace stand in for the built-in shelves Christine plans to install one day. The headdress above the mantel adds softness and movement to the space.

ARTWORK, Boo Boo & Lefty; **MANTEL,** Habitat for Humanity ReStore; polished Carrara marble **FIREPLACE SURROUND,** The Home Depot; white **HEADDRESS,** Snob; **CHANDELIER, SCONCES,** Bronze Home Decor.

"This is my favourite room to relax in. The effect is so natural and soothing."

CHRISTINE HANLON, HOMEOWNER

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USE A LIGHT HAND

"Changing out the more traditional chandelier that used to hang here for a more delicate, chinoiserie-inspired one made such a dramatic impact right away," says Christine. Other classic elements in the dining room, such as the wood table, dresser and tall candlesticks, were switched out for some relaxed slipcovered armchairs and a crisp white tablescape.

Slipcovered **ARMCHAIRS,** Boo Boo & Lefty; **THROW,** HomeSense; **CHANDELIER,** ChairTableLamp; **FLOOR LAMP,** Absolutely.

PHOTOGRAPHY XXXXXXXXXX

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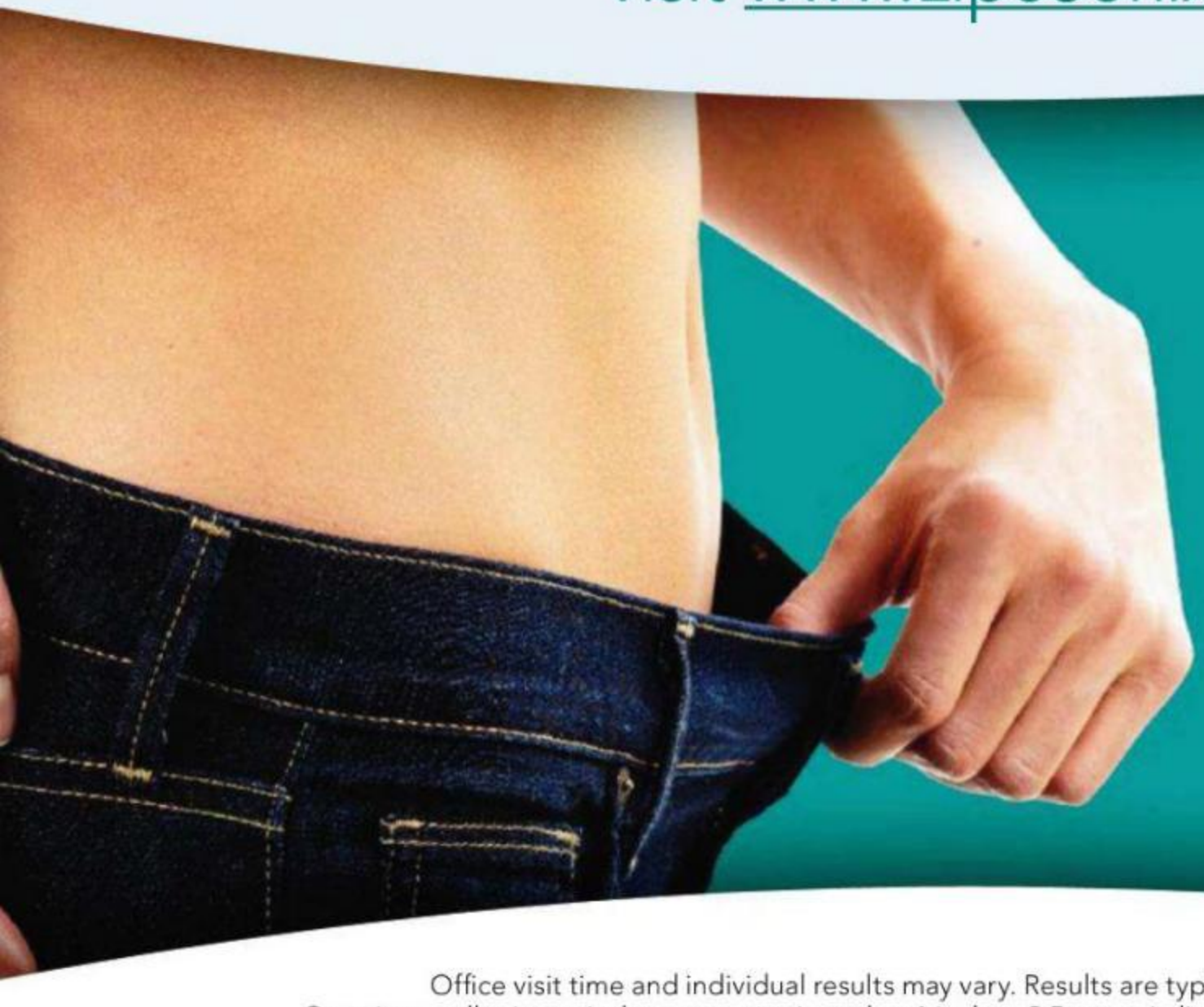

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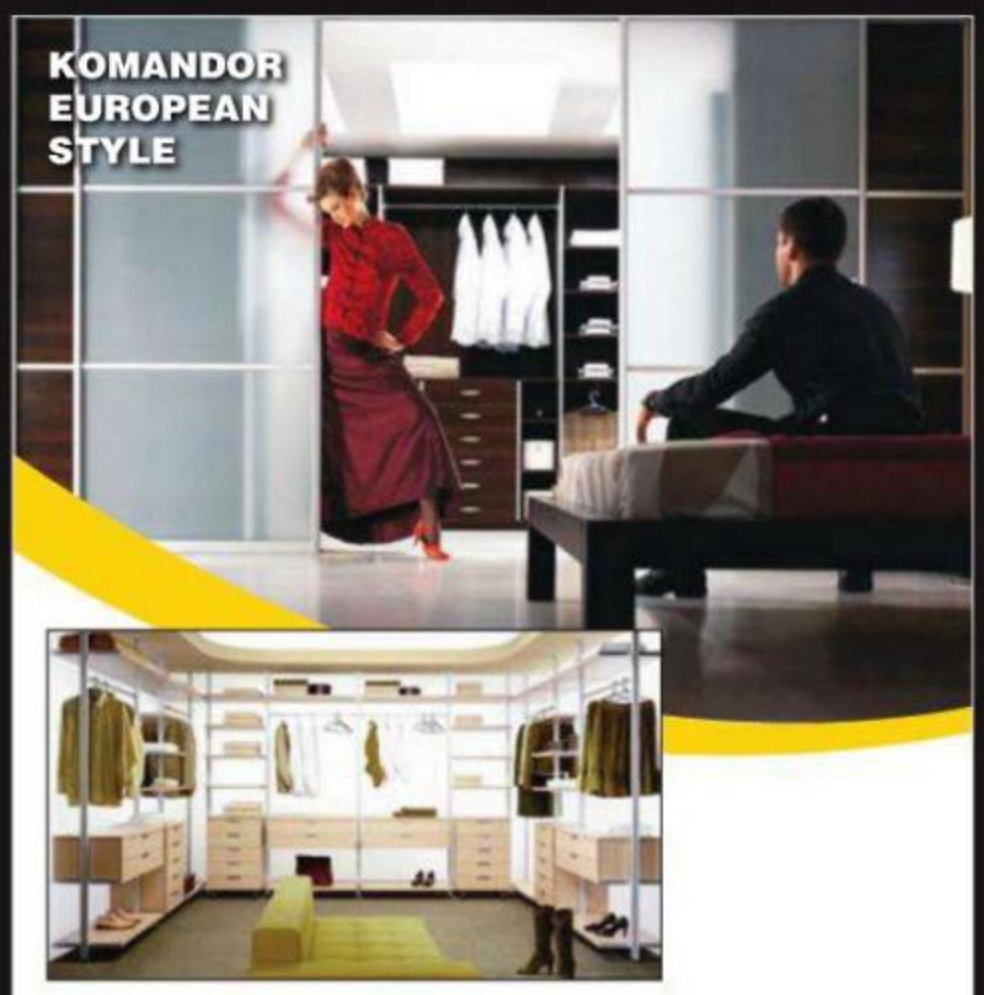

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"The space has evolved over time. I love its sophisticated mix of modern and traditional."

CHRISTINE HANLON, HOMEOWNER

CREATE CONNECTIONS
To integrate the look between the living and dining rooms, Christine used the same modern graphic fabric that's on the living room's sofa and armchairs on the front of the dining room's sidechairs. They're in turn backed with the same delicate grey toile that graces the sofa's toss cushions. Christine used the same trick on the toile toss cushions, which are ingeniously backed with the sofa fabric.

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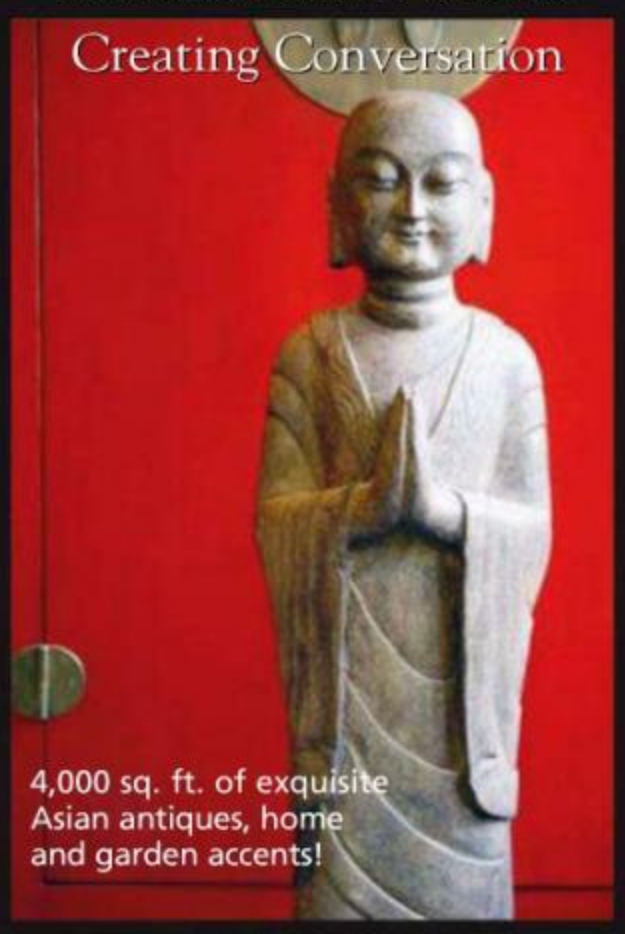

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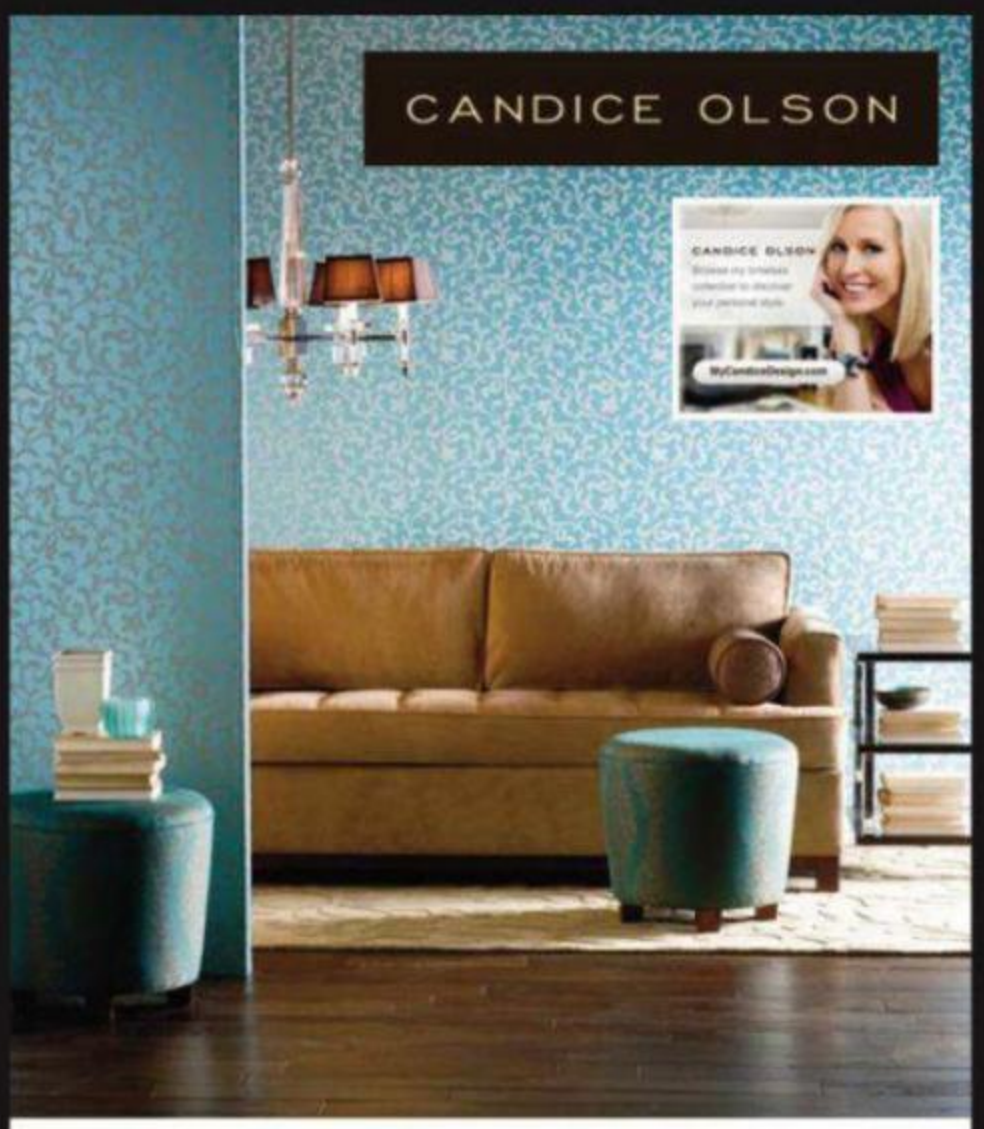

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VERSATILITY RULES

Think a small home means limited design possibilities? Think again! *Style at Home* contributing design editor Samantha Pynn switches up four areas of the home to create two versatile looks for each, sharing some great decorating tips along the way.

PRODUCER SAMANTHA PYNN | **TEXT** LAUREN FLANAGAN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** VIRGINIA MACDONALD

When living in a small space, you need to use every piece of furniture to its maximum potential. "I want people to know they can take items from big-box stores and use them to create different looks and to serve different functions," says *Style at Home* contributing design editor Samantha Pynn, who explores that in the HGTV web series *The Switch*. With a few simple changes, a dining table can become a work surface, a TV unit can become a bar, a lady's dressing area can become a gentleman's retreat, and a living room can go from spring to summer. Whether you want a quick and easy style update or you're looking to give a room a new raison d'être, having smart, versatile pieces will make it a snap. "Good design for a room is all about having furnishings that work for you, no matter what size your home is," says Samantha.

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DUAL PURPOSE

style at home loves
the lattice back splats on these chairs!

DINNER PLANS

You don't have to spend a fortune to have a chic and stylish dining room. A simple round table from a big-box store was given a glam makeover with a coat of spray lacquer, then accented with a set of garden chairs. "The chairs were already painted a dove grey, so all I did was cover the seats in this graphic acid yellow fabric," says Samantha. Bright porcelain dishes found in Chinatown for a steal add a pop of colour and pattern.

OFFICE SPACE

No matter how much space you have, you always end up working at the dining table. Samantha's main rule for turning a dining room into an office? "Don't default to utilitarian office supplies," she says. Instead, splurge on chic desk accessories like a stylish Rolodex, a classic phone and a pretty table lamp. Corral small items on a tray to keep your desk neat. When you're ready to turn the desk back into a dining table, you can just lift away the tray.

Ginger jar **ARTWORK** by Lindsay Agnew, lindsayagnewstyle.com; white Ribba **FRAMES,** Bjursta **DINING TABLE,** IKEA, ikea.ca; **SPRAY PAINTING** (dining table), Benjamen Furniture Refinishing, 416-745-2559; **GARDEN CHAIRS,** Frontier Sales, frontiersales.ca; **DISHES,** Tap Phong Trading Co., 416-977-6364; custom **CHAIR PADS,** Lapis **TABLE LAMP,** inVU Drapery Co., invudraperyco.com; **DESK ACCESSORIES,** PB Grand **PHONE,** Pottery Barn, potterybarn.ca.

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ON DISPLAY

TV TIME

A refurbished vintage dresser flanked by simple off-the-rack bookcases provides a home for the television. The large piece of art layered behind it balances the tall bookcases and appears as an extension of the TV. "It makes the television look like an accessory rather than a focal point," explains Samantha. The pretty blue floral wallpaper lining the back of the bookcases tricks the eye, making them look full and robust.

style at home loves
this simple graphic artwork by Canadian artist Lindsay Agnew

PARTY CENTRAL

"Putting a bar in the living room keeps people out of the kitchen when you're having a party," says Samantha. The marble slab on top of the chest acts as a large coaster, so there's no worry about spills or scratches wrecking the dresser's finish. The artwork and television from the first look were exchanged for an inexpensive custom yellow piece, which becomes the focal point and provides colour inspiration for the bookshelf displays. The wallpaper was removed and bright yellow accessories were added to liven things up.

Billy **BOOKCASES,** IKEA, ikea.ca; The Lotus Papers **WALLPAPER,** Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com; **ACCESSORIES** (in bookcases), Teatro Verde, teatroverde.com; Insignia **TELEVISION,** Future Shop, futureshop.ca; floral **ARTWORK** by Madeleine Lamont, Art Interiors, artinteriors.ca; cobalt **SPIRE JAR** (on dresser), inVU Drapery Co., invudraperyco.com; lattice **ARTWORK** by Lindsay Agnew, lindsayagnewstyle.com.

FROM

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PLAYING DRESS-UP

GIRLY GLAM

The jumping-off point for this feminine boudoir was an ornate silver mirror with serious wow factor. A $20 lamp base was dressed up with a luxurious blush-coloured shade, referencing the hue in the photograph. Books and accessories in the same silver and pink tones provide the finishing touches. "You want your everyday jewellery and makeup out on display for easy access," says Samantha. "I recommend keeping them on trays and in pretty cups to ensure things stay organized and neat."

style at home loves
butting matching dressers in two different heights

WORLDLY GENT

Traditional masculine patterns and textures define this manly retreat. "I started with the black mirror, but I didn't want too striking a contrast between it and the white chest, so I tempered it with black-and-white plaid accents," says Samantha. A leather briefcase holds everyday items, such as watches, cufflinks and cologne. To prevent the vignette from looking too boxy, a globe and shapely trophy lamp bookend the display, giving it balance and interest.

Malm **CHESTS,** white Ribba **FRAME,** black Hemnes **MIRROR,** IKEA, ikea.ca; vintage glass **LAMP BASE,** Elegant Garage Sale, elegantgaragesale.com; **TRAY, MAKEUP CUPS,** trophy **LAMP,** plaid **TRAY & CANISTER, TOILETRIES,** Teatro Verde, teatroverde.com; **LAMPSHADE,** Aristocrat Lamps and Lighting, aristocrat.ca; **JEWELLERY BOX,** Elte, elte.com; feather **PHOTOGRAPH,** Virginia Macdonald, virginiamacdonald.com; landscape **ARTWORK** by David Lee, Art Interiors, artinteriors.ca; **GLOBE,** Pottery Barn, potterybarn.ca.

FROM

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IN SEASON

SPRING MIX

Green and fuchsia toss cushions serve as the foundation for this fresh, colourful look. "You should always invest in the things you love," says Samantha, who splurged on the silk floral-patterned cushions. "But don't be afraid to mix them up with cheap and cheerful pieces." To balance the cost, she paired the pricey cushions with some inexpensive kelly green beauties. Blue garden stools tie in with the aqua throw. A great alternative to a traditional coffee table, the stools offer extra seating when guests come to visit.

style at home loves
mixing patterns in blue and yellow

SUMMER FUN

"Any time you use two primary colours, you're going to get a really energetic combination," says Samantha. She opted for vibrant blue and yellow. For the switch, one piece of art was replaced with a blown-up photograph, while the garden stools were exchanged for a modern coffee table. "Glass-topped tables are ideal in small spaces because they read as light and airy."

IKEA Stockholm **SOFA,** Pjätteryd zebra **PRINT,** IKEA, ikea.ca; bird **PHOTOGRAPH,** Virginia Macdonald, virginiamacdonald.com; **CUSHIONS, BOWL,** inVU Drapery Co., invudraperyco.com; **THROW,** Elte, elte.com; **GARDEN STOOLS,** Teatro Verde, teatroverde.com; cat mask **ARTWORK** by Elizabeth Dorion Scott, Art Interiors, artinteriors.ca.

More design secrets from Samantha Pynn, **STYLEATHOME.COM/SAMANTHAPYNN.**

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Toronto stylist Lara McGraw steps out of her neutral comfort zone to create a guest room that's full of texture, pattern and colour.

sweet dreams

TEXT NANCY WON | **PHOTOGRAPHY** STACEY VAN BERKEL-HAINES

Give a designer carte blanche in your home, and you'll be presented with an ambitious colour scheme and bold fabric samples before you can say "Go big or go home." Give the same designer free rein in her own home and, well, carte blanche just about describes what you're likely to find. Namely, a lot of white.

Overstimulation is the main occupational hazard of working in the design industry, and stylist Lara McGraw found herself sticking to a neutral palette in her five-bedroom Victorian. "It sounds so silly, but sometimes I find I'm afraid of colour," says Lara with a laugh. "I work with it so much, but when you actually incorporate it in your own home, it can be a bit scary to live with."

So when it came time to make over the dreary 168-square-foot guest room she'd inherited when she bought her charming abode in Toronto's Summerhill neighbourhood, Lara took it as an opportunity to stretch her at-home design sensibility. "A guest room, like a powder room, is one of the few places where you can be a little more energetic with your design because it's not a room you live in every day," she says. "It's your chance to experiment and have fun with ideas that appeal to you aesthetically but that you might not necessarily want to do in your own bedroom."

Stylist Lara McGraw (shown here with daughter Margot) replaced her inexpensive blinds with a loose, open-weave linen to create a bright, airy feeling.

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BELOW LEFT "I thought about putting a dresser in the room, but I realized anyone staying over wouldn't really need it, especially with the closet in there already," says Lara. Instead, she created a quiet sitting area where her guests could relax without having to sit on the bed.

Herringbone SR73 **ACCENT WALL PAINT,** Para Paints; Carl Hansen & Son **CHAIR,** BDDW **MIRROR,** Judy Ross **CUSHION,** Hollace Cluny; Kiska Textiles **ROBE,** Lucca Fine Linens.

BELOW RIGHT For extra storage, Lara installed a set of floating bedside tables she'd brought with her from her previous house. A fresh coat of paint was all it took to bring new life to the tired wooden shelves.

Shoreline SR43 **BEDSIDE TABLE PAINT,** Para Paints; *Check to Make Sure They're All Good* **ARTWORK** by Cybèle Young; canvas **STORAGE BIN,** Lovell Designs; iPAL **RADIO,** Tivoli Audio.

DECORATING WITH WALLPAPER

A quick way to get a high-impact look is to use wallpaper. Follow these tips to make the decision-making process a little easier.

• **Check out as many wallpaper images online as you can.** Most websites have handy programs that will mock up a room with your chosen pattern to give you a better idea of the scale.

• If this is your first time installing your own wallpaper, **try to avoid very small patterns** – it's hard to match up the pattern repeat.

• **Ask the supplier to give you bigger samples.** Standard wallpaper samples are too small to give you a real sense of how the pattern will look, especially if you're considering a large-scale print.

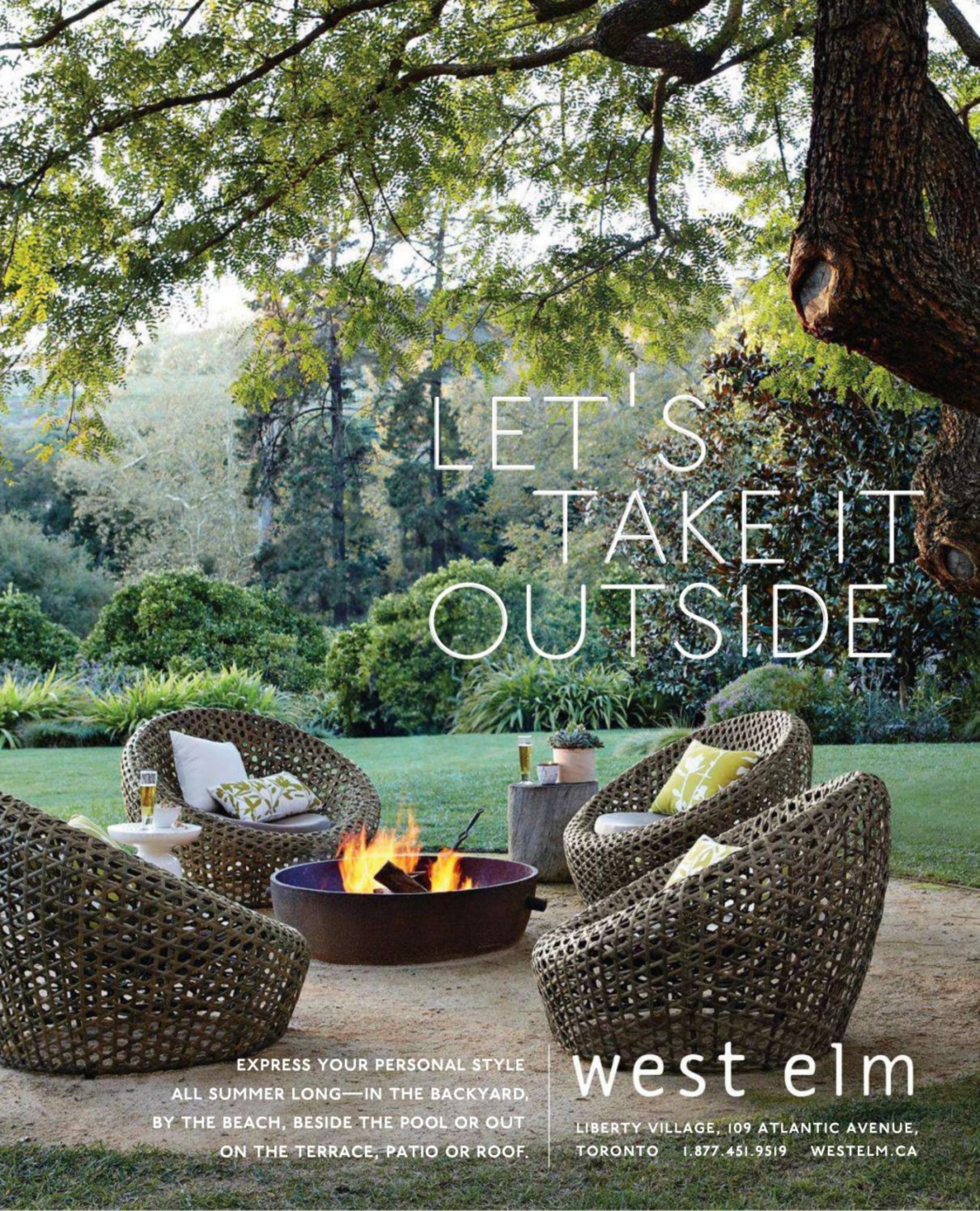
• If you've narrowed down your choices to one or two top picks but can't make a final decision, **buy a roll and take it home so you can see it in your space,** with your furniture and in your lighting conditions. It's a small price to pay if it's not everything you dreamed.

• **Limit yourself to one feature wall** when it comes to bold, dramatic pattern. Believe us, this will be statement enough.

• If you love shimmering metallic wallpaper, **opt for simple, toned-down colour schemes.**

Faced with the task of transforming a dark, uninviting cave into a light-filled, serene space, Lara started (true to form) with white, but she expanded her decorative horizons with a bold wallpaper, controlled pops of colour and pretty, patterned fabric. "I found layering to be a really easy way of introducing colour and pattern to the room – it's completely unmatched, but it works!" Lara says.

And because a fear of statement decorating is as much a human condition as it is a design industry phobia, there's plenty to learn from our intrepid designer's baby steps out of neutral territory.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LEFT Lara replaced the existing light fixture with an airy one resembling a delicate ball of string.

Moooi Random **PENDANT LIGHT,** Klaus by Nienkamper; *Iceland* **ARTWORK** by Rob Fiocca; Snowfall SR29 **WALL PAINT,** Para Paints.

BELOW The previous owner's wrought-iron wall piece above the bed left a set of massive holes in the plaster, which couldn't be fully repaired. Lara's solution: wallpaper. "I wanted something fun but inviting, so I went with a nature theme," says Lara.

Kiska Textiles **BED LINENS,** Lucca Fine Linens; Woods **WALLPAPER,** Cole & Son; Carpet Reloaded for Moroso **RUGS,** Klaus by Nienkamper; Vanvik **BED,** IKEA.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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out of AFRICA

TEXT NANCY CHRISTIE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ANGUS FERGUSSON

Organic textures, rich colours and exotic patterns evoke the feel of the South African veld in this romantic master bedroom suite.

The warm chocolate brown dresser complements the deep scarlet of the artwork and floral arrangement. That rich colour combo provides a standout contrast to the neutral-toned grasscloth wallcovering.

Grasscloth **WALLCOVERING,** Blue Mountain Wallcoverings; white Kudu **HORNS,** framed red Zulu hat **ARTWORK,** red **VASE,** Snob; **FLORAL ARRANGEMENT,** Wild Thyme.

Fashion & Beauty
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The feminine curves of the lamp balance the hard lines of the bedside table. Stacks of books are at the ready for nighttime reading for homeowner Julie Wiggins and her husband, Jeff.

Hughes **BEDSIDE TABLE, TABLE LAMP,** Elte; white **FLOUR BASKET** on stand, Snob.

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FROM TOP LEFT The natural-coloured grasscloth, artwork and decorative felted sheep recall the organic beauty of the South African veld; this group of photos taken by Julie is one of her favourite features in the room: "These photos bring me back to the moment I took them," she says; the African headdress evokes a specific locale but isn't too literal.

DRESSER, Elte; wool Ronél Jordaan **FELTED SHEEP,** wooden African **NECKREST,** natural Cameroon JuJu **HEADDRESS,** Snob.

LEFT Julie wanted her master bedroom to have a romantic look that evoked the feel of South Africa, where she and Jeff went on a safari.

Most people keep their vacation memories alive in photographs and souvenirs. But *Style at Home* advertising sales director Julie Wiggins had a bigger plan to commemorate the majestic African safari she and her husband, Jeff, had taken in 2009. With guidance from contributing design editor Christine Hanlon, Julie recreated in her master bedroom the atmosphere of the elegant Ngala Safari Lodge, where the couple had stayed. "We slept in a thatched hut," says Julie. "But, I use the word *hut* loosely because it was so luxurious. I wasn't expecting it to be as romantic as it was."

Taking that as her cue, Julie also wanted to respect both the culture and the wildlife of South Africa in the palette, fabric, furniture and accessories. So Christine set out to create the new look she calls "modern Africa." She combined large-scaled patterns in bright red and chocolate brown with organic textures like the capiz chandelier and the grasscloth wallcovering. The show-stopping red botanical print on the quilted coverlet and upholstered headboard was a risky choice for Christine and Julie. The dramatic result is bold and playful, lending the room an exotic vibe. "We looked for prints that felt organic and had some movement, providing graphic impact against the creamy ivory palette," says Christine. The unique tiered shell chandelier also makes a statement yet is delicate and beautifully reflective at night.

"The room feels warm and inviting but is still young and fresh," says Christine, who imbued the space with a special energy and a distinct style, making it feel like a private sanctuary. When bringing global style into the home, Christine recommends not being too literal – no animal-print bed linens or clichéd giraffe statues. Instead, incorporate the theme in subtle details. Pattern and motif played a strong role in Christine's design and are reflective of time and place: the textures, colours, artifacts and images remind Julie of South Africa's cultural landscape.

It's this attention to detail – the exotic patterns, organic textures, capiz shell chandelier and bold artwork – that makes Julie's master bedroom as intriguing as the style it evokes.

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"We looked for prints that felt organic and had some movement."

CHRISTINE HANLON, CONTRIBUTING DESIGN EDITOR

At night, the chandelier casts a beautiful reflection on the coffered ceiling, creating a romantic, intimate ambience. The upholstered headboard and bold-patterned bed linens speak of a luxury well suited to this master bedroom retreat.

CHANDELIER, RUG, Elte; **DRAPERY FABRIC, HARDWARE & INSTALLATION, UPHOLSTERED BENCH, UPHOLSTERED HEADBOARD, EURO CUSHIONS, QUILTED COVERLET,** inVU Drapery Co.; Madison **BED LINENS** in Chocolate, Lulu DK; silk velvet ikat **CUSHIONS,** Snob; chocolate grosgrain **RIBBON** (on drapery), Mokuba.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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130

LEFT Family heirlooms reflect the golds and pinks found elsewhere in the apartment.

PITCHER, ...Of Things Past.

OPPOSITE There may not be much colour in the apartment, but this room has a bright personality (and not just because of sphynx kittens Little Edie and Lucille II) with its eclectic mix of furniture.

SETTEE, Craigslist; striped Dessin Fournir **SETTEE FABRIC,** Primavera; **SETTEE UPHOLSTERING & REFINISHING, TOSS CUSHION FABRICATION,** Cooper Bros.; velvet **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Kobe; **OTTOMAN,** Ethan Allen; *Basking in the Polka Dots* **ARTWORK** by Joshua Jensen-Nagle, Art Interiors; **RUG,** Allan Rug Co.

TEXT IRIS BENAROIA | **PHOTOGRAPHY** STACEY BRANDFORD

...according to jessica

Striking contrast and eclectic accessories give this Toronto apartment effortless flair.

Jessica Waks's place is so saucy one expects Mae West to suddenly sashay across the room. Evoking the glitz of Old Hollywood, this Toronto apartment features a peculiar mix of decor that swirls together in one glorious, uplifting burst: old-world paintings, colourful pop art, vintage furniture, shadow boxes containing Jessica's late grandmother's makeup compacts – even taxidermy butterflies. "Our apartment has the look and feel of a bygone era but with modern touches," says Jessica, who shares →

LEFT Homeowner and decorator Jessica Waks with fiancé David Goodman. For design ideas and inspiration, check out Jessica's blog: jessicaclairesworld.blogspot.com.

ABOVE Instead of being a dizzying mishmash of styles, the living room works because the colours are repeated.

SOFA, Elte; **TUXEDO CHAIR,** Craigslist; **TUXEDO CHAIR UPHOLSTERING & REFINISHING,** Cooper Bros.; ivory vinyl **TUXEDO CHAIR FABRIC,** Maxwell Fabrics; black velvet **TUXEDO CHAIR PIPING,** Threadcount Textile & Design; acrylic **COFFEE TABLE,** CB2; Kelly Wearstler **BENCH FABRIC,** Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom; Warhol **POSTERS & FRAMING,** PI Fine Art.

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT Plates on display in the kitchen pop against the neutral wall.

CABINETRY, HARDWARE, The Home Depot; **FAUCET, SINK,** Home Hardware; **FLOOR TILES,** Olympia Tile & Stone; **BACKSPLASH TILE,** Stone Tile International; **PLATES,** John Derian Company.

OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT Pink and gold accents extend even to the dishware and macarons.

Gold **SUGAR BOWL,** ...Of Things Past.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT Floor lamps embellished with grosgrain ribbon flank a slim console that was updated with a coat of paint. The leopard-print cowhide reinforces the black-and-white palette, while the acrylic stool adds visual weight.

CONSOLE, Craigslist; leopard-stamped **COWHIDE,** Proin Leathers; **BENCH,** Ginger's; **FLOOR LAMPS,** HomeSense; grosgrain **RIBBON** (on lampshades), Mokuba; **PHOTOGRAPH** by Karen Radkai, The Condé Nast Store; gold **VASE,** Teatro Verde.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT "If I have something clean, I have something fussy next

to it," says Jessica. In the dining room, she tempered Louis-style chairs and a gilded mirror and chandelier with a streamlined Parsons table.

TABLE, Craigslist; Duralee vinyl **CHAIR FABRIC,** Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics; **CHAIR FABRIC** (back panel), Maxwell Fabrics; **CHAIR FRAMES & UPHOLSTERING,** Sita; **RUNNER,** Chilewich; **RUG,** IKEA; **DRAPERY PANELS,** The Home Depot; **DRAPERY HARDWARE,** Lowe's; **MIRROR,** ...Of Things Past.

TOP RIGHT A tin tea box, mirrored tray and even vintage jewellery count as art.

TRAY, Dana Jordan.

BOTTOM RIGHT A floating shelf creates an instant mini-gallery. Jessica's evolving display includes a framed vintage Chanel No. 5 advertisement, a white model car (signed by The Fonz himself!) and a bust of Napoleon.

DRESSERS, Structube; *Pop* (Elvis) **ARTWORK** by Joshua Jensen-Nagle, Art Interiors; floating **SHELF,** IKEA; black textured **CANVAS** by Andrea Marcus; colourful **CANVAS,** Team Macho.

OPPOSITE Jessica's signature use of black and white throughout the bedroom is surprisingly calm and soothing. The amber orange of the toss cushions and the photo of a vintage chandelier adds just the right amount of colour.

NIGHTSTAND, Worlds Away; **DUVET COVER, EURO SHAMS,** Au Lit Fine Linens; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Missoni Home; **BLANKET,** Hermès; SpectrumRug Flokati **RUG,** Amazon.

"The play between negative is so graphic black and white to I especially love the way against the neutral

her digs with two sphynx kittens and one very accommodating fiancé, David Goodman.

A decorator with Taylor Hannah Architect, an upscale firm famous for its lively interiors, Jessica is drawn to the unconventional, listing edgy mid-century decorator Dorothy Draper as inspiration. "She was a cool chick who had sass and class," says Jessica. So it's not surprising that she created an anti-minimalist pad in her own home, with head-turning vignettes that boast an abundance of textures, patterns and materials (think brass and acrylic mixed with chinoiserie and leopard prints).

Yet for all its fanfare, the apartment is largely bereft of colour. For oomph, Jessica stuck to a strict black-and-white palette, pointing out the kitchen's ceramic-tile checkerboard floor ("It's so retro and classic," she says enthusiastically) and the hallway's white walls and trim punctuated with high-gloss black doors as prime examples. "I rely on contrast," she says, noting that brighter hues come from the artwork and accessories, which can easily be switched out if she gets bored of them.

While the glamorous space looks expensive, most of the bits and pieces are DIY specials, including the photo of a chandelier Jessica snapped in her parents' home – it hangs on the wall above her bed – and the deceptively grand console found on Craigslist, which she refinished in black and gold. Jessica was careful to splurge selectively, as she did with the settee's silk upholstery: "It took me five months to find fabric with the perfect stripe width," she says. And the ottoman: "I saw imitations, but I was looking for that tufting detail, so I finally went to Ethan Allen and bought it."

Although Jessica combines different patterns, finishes and styles, repetition is what keeps the look cohesive. The textiles are black and white, while gold accents pop up in detailing, artwork and accessories – all set against a neutral backdrop. Instead of being a dizzying ode to over-the-top Hollywood, the space is fun and fresh, which suits Jessica just fine. Life may be black and white for this ardent decorator, but it's certainly never boring.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

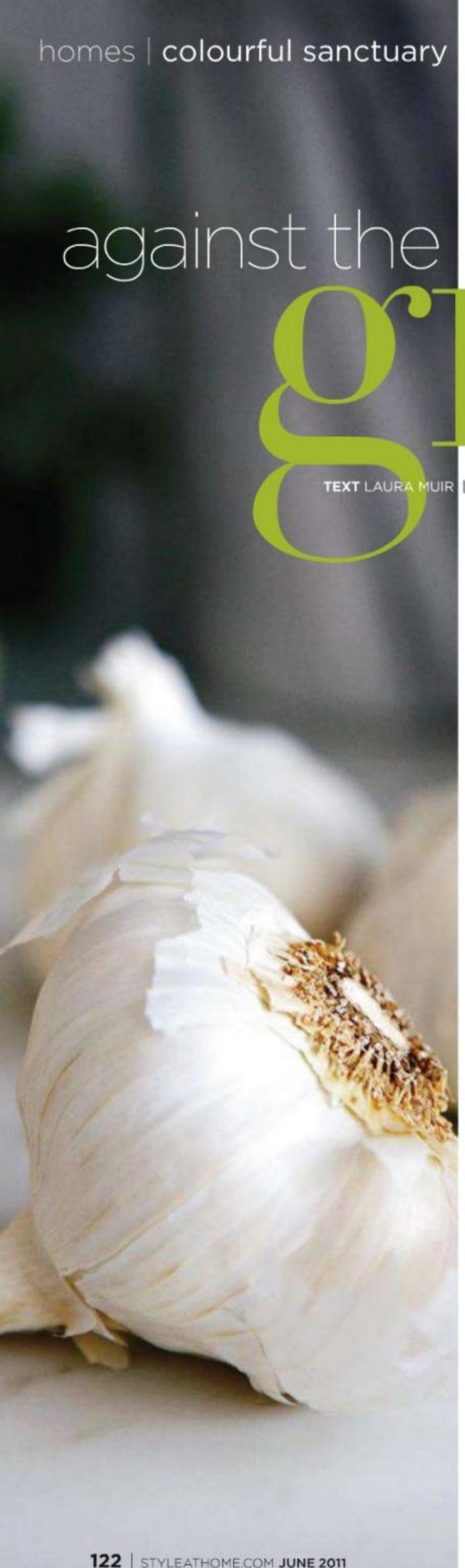
positive and
and engaging. I find
be very **stimulating.**
my accessories pop
palette.” JESSICA WAKS, HOMEOWNER + DESIGNER

See Jessica’s amazing before and after furniture makeovers,
STYLEATHOME.COM/JESSICAWAKS.

against the grain

TEXT LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MICHAEL GRAYDON | **STYLING** CHRISTINE HANLON

Bold colours and clever touches define this London, Ont., home that's anything but cookie cutter.



They say reaching goals involves knowing exactly what you want. But for the homeowner of this luxurious house in London, Ont., knowing what she *didn't* want proved to be just as effective in creating a space she loved. From the open-concept layout to the smallest fringe details on the blinds, the house displays her aversion to the typical safe choices while showcasing her fondness for going against the grain and having a little fun while doing it.

The homeowner eschewed the "same old, same old" right from the start. "We didn't want the standard home with bedrooms upstairs, then a main floor, then a basement," she says. That's why when she and her husband, both finance professionals, purchased this 3,500-square-foot house from the builder's blueprints six years ago, it was the open-concept spaces and the promise of sky-high 10- to 14-foot ceilings that clinched the deal. The lot's location also helped. "We liked that it's in the back of the neighbourhood and overlooks a ravine," says the homeowner. "It's totally private."

Turning the house into a distinctive, comfortable home has been an ongoing process for both the homeowner and Toronto designer Delia Mamann of Delia Mamann Interior Design from the time it was being built (the owner ended up forgoing many of the builder's finishes for her own picks) to the time it was ready for decorating. The mix of clean-lined furnishings, show-stopping fixtures and accessories, sumptuous textiles (no synthetics allowed) and bold colour schemes

In the kitchen, the fluid veining of the marble countertop and backsplash, a stunning focal point, offsets the taupe-painted cabinetry's clean lines. A raised counter area (on the right) provides a spot for casual eating and offers the chef a bit of privacy in the open space. "You don't see all the activity and chaos in the kitchen if you're sitting in the living room," says the homeowner.

INTERIOR & DRAPERY DESIGN, Delia Mamann Interior Design, deliamamann.com; **CABINETRY, HARDWARE,** Continental Cabinet; Ranchwood CC-500 **CABINETRY PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; Calacatta Oro marble **COUNTERTOP & BACKSPLASH,** Marble Trend; hardwood **FLOORING** in Charcoal, FloorSource.

create a chic, luxe space that, if you look closely, doesn't take itself too seriously. "The fun part about the home was having a homeowner who was so open and daring and unconventional," says Delia. "She really wanted the house to be different and colourful." That meant avoiding the traditional choices: a hot pink borne settee greets guests in place of a round table or console with a vase of flowers in the grand foyer; a Lucite table flanked by sculptural sidechairs supplants the usual buffet in the dining room; and the black wallpaper with a fanciful chandelier motif is a confident choice for a basement.

For the homeowner, avoiding the safe route also meant slowly creating the look over time. "There was no one-stop shopping," says Delia. "We didn't buy any sets. Everything was thoughtfully chosen, and there were pieces the homeowner fell in love with that she had to have." In other words, inspiration can't be rushed. And it could be anything from crystal beads to a piece of orange velvet fabric that inspired the look of an entire room.

"I really love colour," says the homeowner, "so I wanted a lot of it in the house." Diverse colour schemes throughout add personality and warmth but also define "rooms" in the open space. "We wanted to retain the airy look, but →

ABOVE Dark walnut cabinetry defines an island that divides the kitchen and living room. The wine fridge also makes it perfect for entertaining. "We made it fancier on that side because it's closer to the living room," says the homeowner. Glass pendant lights boast a clean, elegant look that suits both rooms.

PENDANT LIGHTS, Sescolite.

RIGHT "The kitchen's eating area has stronger, bolder contrasts," says designer Delia Mamann. The grey-and-white colour combination is repeated in the seating and the drapery.

BAR STOOLS, Kiosk Design; custom **TABLE,** L.A. Design; Zen **CHAIRS,** Palazzetti; custom **RUG,** Elte; **DRAPERY FABRIC,** Threadcount Textile & Design.

style at home loves

These aren't your standard run-of-the-mill window coverings. Repeating the colours and vertical lines of the blind in the drapery panels provides an unusual touch.

"We didn't want the standard home with bedrooms upstairs, then a main floor, then a basement." HOMEOWNER

The orange cotton velvet fabric on the sofa inspired the sunroom's vibrant colour scheme, which gives the space a more laid-back vibe. Details like the shag rug and striped silk taffeta drapes paired with linen scrim blinds, which feature an unexpected ribbon-and-bead trim, enhance the elegant yet casual look.

DRAPERY & SOFA FABRIC, TRIM, Threadcount Textile & Design; shag **RUG,** leather **CHAIRS,** Elte; **COFFEE TABLE,** Stylegarage; **SIDE TABLES, TABLE LAMP,** South Hill Home.

style at home loves

The energetic burst of orange in this room is not the only shining factor. The layering of different textures, including leather, silk, linen, velvet and wool, provides depth and offers a cozy, warm feel.

"There was no one-stop shopping. We didn't buy any sets – every piece was thoughtfully chosen."

DELIA MAMANN, DESIGNER

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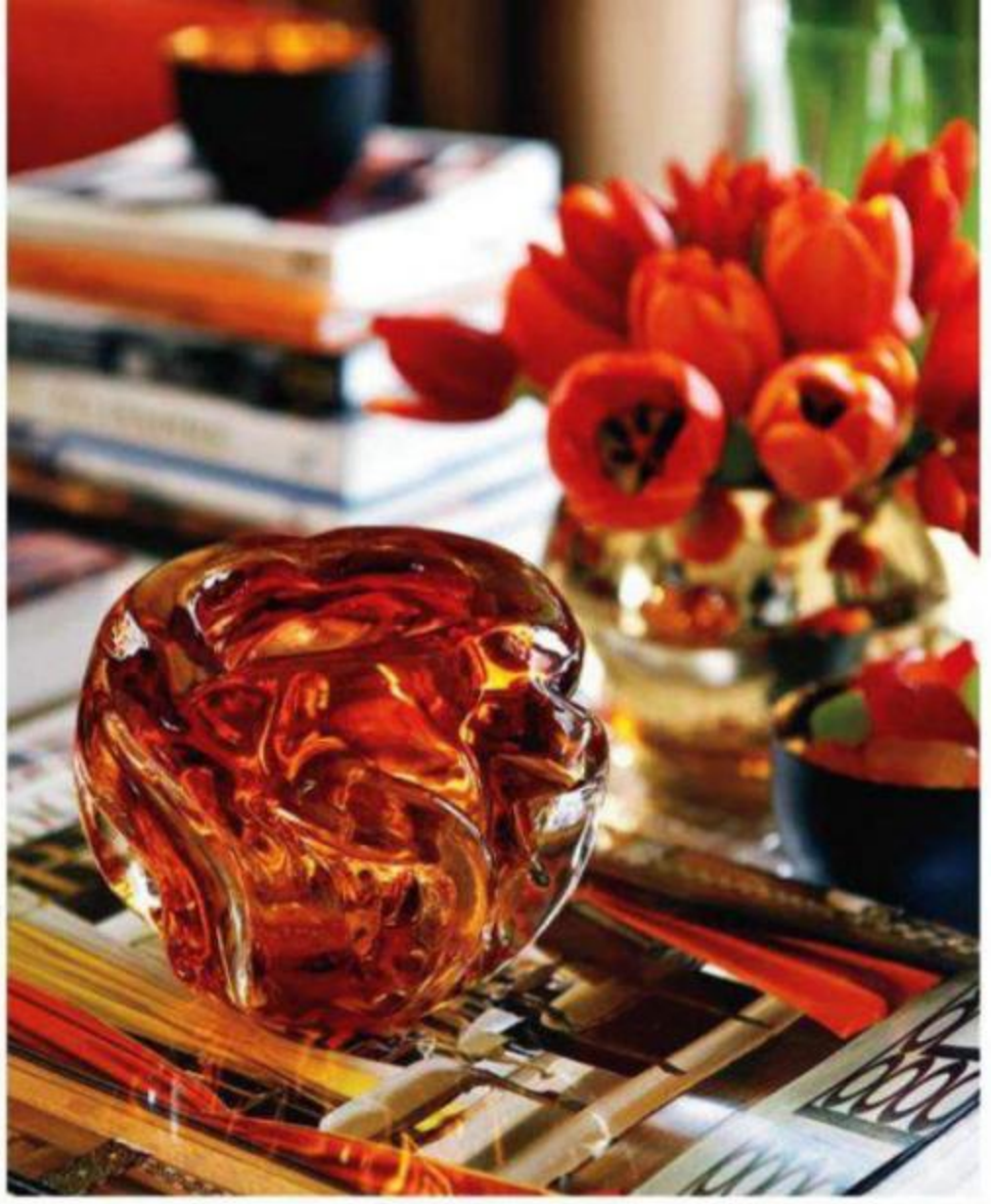


TOP RIGHT This vintage art glass sculpture works with the sunroom's colour palette and serves as a fun conversation piece. "It was sitting in a box in my mother's house," says the homeowner. "I was just going through some stuff and thought, 'I know a spot for this!'"

BOTTOM RIGHT Sofas upholstered in a silvery grey cotton velvet add a formal touch to the living room. "The fabric has a lustre to it," says Delia. "Everywhere in the house the textiles add a lot of luxury." The coffee table is topped with marble – a material that's repeated a few times throughout the house to create visual flow in the open spaces.

SOFAS, SIDECHAIR, Elte;
SOFA & SIDECHAIR FABRIC, Threadcount Textile & Design;
COFFEE TABLE, South Hill Home.

ILLUSTRATION, SCOTT ROGERS

"I really love colour, so I wanted a lot of it in the house. I didn't look at anything beige, brown or tan. That look feels too standard, too safe." HOMEOWNER

style at home loves

Upholstered in a hot pink jacquard velvet with gilded highlights in a Rococo motif, the borne settee creates a bold, modern colour scheme when combined with the dark polished-limestone floor.

TOP LEFT With elements like the rich-looking walnut table and chairs and the airy gilded chandelier, the dining room blurs the lines between contemporary and traditional.

CHANDELIER, SIDECHAIRS, South Hill Home; **DINING TABLE & CHAIRS,** Lucite **CONSOLE,** Elte; **RUG,** Weavers Art; **DRAPERY FABRIC, TRIM,** Threadcount Textile & Design.

BOTTOM LEFT The basement, with its youthful, edgy decor and white, black and hot pink palette, serves as a fun, comfortable hangout for the family.

COFFEE TABLE, Kiosk Design; Plinto **MEDIA UNIT, SHELVES,** Palazzetti; pink custom **SIDE TABLE,** Fluf; **SECTIONAL,** Elte; **SECTIONAL FABRIC, WALLPAPER,** Threadcount Textile & Design.

make it feel like you're in a distinct room," she says. A bold contrasting grey-and-white scheme delineates the kitchen eating area, a bright orange palette enhances the sunroom's casual feel, and a combination of pink, black and white gives the basement, which serves as the perfect hangout for the homeowner's three grown stepchildren, a bit of edge. "I didn't consider anything beige, brown or tan," she says. "It feels too standard, too safe – not fun or playful."

And for this homeowner, pushing the envelope is actually safer than it seems. "If I don't like something, I can always change it," she says.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

"Instead of going with the traditional round table with a vase, or a console against a wall with a mirror above it, we wanted something that felt more like the lobby of a really nice hotel," says the homeowner. To that end, she and Delia incorporated a luxe borne settee.

SETTEE DESIGN, Delia Mamann Interior Design; Designers Guild Quarenghi Collection Fredensborg Peony **SETTEE FABRIC,** Primavera; Grigio Saraceno limestone **FLOORING,** Ciot.

RIGHT The master bedroom features a mix of clean-lined and curvaceous, masculine and feminine, textural and sleek items to create a look that suits both the homeowner and her husband.

HEADBOARD & BEDDING DESIGN, Delia Mamann Interior Design; **DRAPERY, BEDDING & HEADBOARD FABRIC, TRIM,** Threadcount Textile & Design; **END TABLE,** Stylegarage.

Canada's West Coast beaches inspired designer Kelly Deck's scheme for a Kitsilano cottage redo. Weathered wood, natural-fibre fabrics, and a soft, muted palette evocative of a Vancouver beach veiled in mist are key elements of the decor. The house's 1920s-era heritage is reflected in rustic romantic touches throughout.

DESIGN, Kelly Deck Design, kellydeck.com.

OPPOSITE In the front entry, a metal curio cart strikes a nostalgic note while built-ins maximize storage. Kelly chose a more formal desk chair in a pretty floral for the den, since it would be in the direct sightline of people entering the house.

Curio **CART,** Scott Landon Antiques.

With a (water)colourful array of tricks, designer Kelly Deck brings a breath of fresh air to a small abode inspired by the beach.

pale shelter

TEXT KATHLEEN DORE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** BARRY CALHOUN

The elegance of the dining room is achieved through simplicity: Kelly used unique signature pieces that complement one another but definitely don't match. And the furnishings are few. The rustic-meets-modern table is fashioned from wood reclaimed from an RCMP horse barn. The Wegner Wishbone chairs are "a feminine form," says Kelly, as is the spectacular focal point – the elaborate chandelier. White linen drapes puddle softly on the floor.

Reclaimed fir plank **TABLE,** Flower Drop **CHANDELIER,** The Cross; Wegner Wishbone **CHAIRS,** Inform Interiors.

"THIS HOUSE ISN'T ABOUT GRANDEUR – IT'S ABOUT LIVING."

KELLY DECK, DESIGNER

ABOVE Shaker-style cabinets suit the informality of the open-concept kitchen. Kelly loves giving style to a space through lighting – the pendants at the breakfast bar are modern, but with an industrial edge.

Arper Babar **BAR STOOLS,** Living Space; Turret **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Niche Modern.

What designer wouldn't want to hear this from a client? "Just design this home as though you'd live in it yourself."

That's what happened to designer and media personality Kelly Deck. Her client, a builder with whom she'd worked before, brought her to see a 1920s cottage-style home, which he planned to renovate and sell, in Vancouver's trendy Kitsilano neighbourhood. She remembers standing at the front door on that first visit: "I laughed and said to him, 'What have you gotten yourself into?!' It was modest – just 2,320 square feet – and, having been owned by the same person for so many years, it hadn't been touched in ages."

Despite the home's less-than-favourable first impression, Kelly just couldn't refuse a carte blanche project like this one and the opportunity to design a house a mere five blocks from the shore in her favourite cottage-casual style.

Kelly wanted a Scandinavian-inspired relaxed vibe infused with romance and notes from the beach, but first some heavy-duty engineering was required to create the new airy, open main-level floor plan. In the process, Kelly also added two dormers to the previously unlivable 550-square-foot attic and impressively carved out enough space for two bedrooms with ensuites.

With the frame in place, the next step was to →

REFINED-HOME STYLE

Kelly Deck's tips for infusing big personality into a modest home.

Oversized items work, especially if there's open space around them, or you can see through them. The airy, open frame of the dining table is large but not too heavy.

If you can't make it big, make it glamorous, as with the master bedroom, which is luxuriously outfitted with cursive writing and a sparkly chandelier.

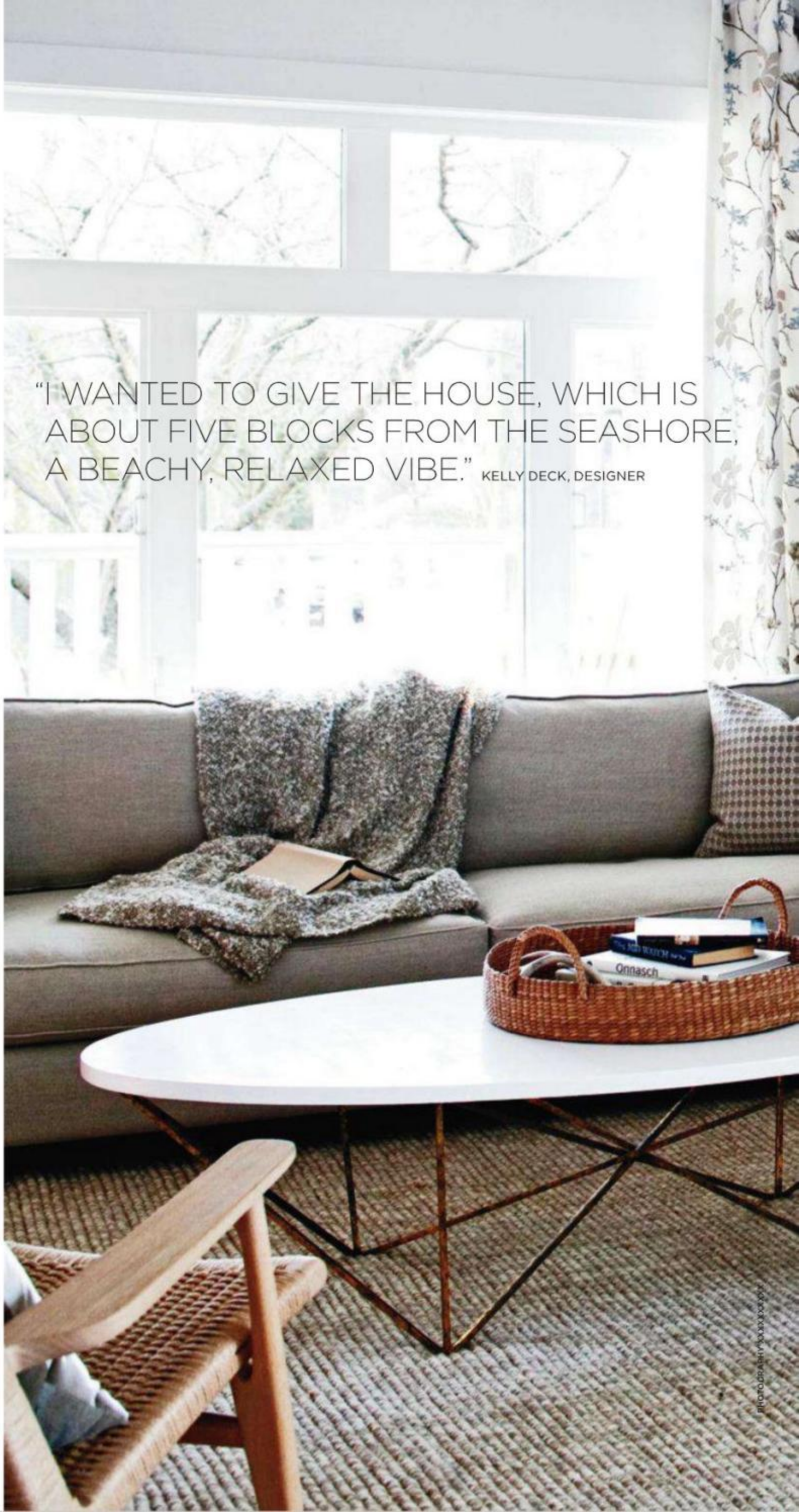
Carefully curate furnishings. Choose pieces with weight, presence and personality. Kelly's favourite? The dining room chandelier.

Add built-ins for strategic storage. "This isn't a big home, so the millwork was integral," says Kelly. "I wanted to be very concise with the cabinetry placement to maximize storage."

Turn negatives into positives. The dormer rooflines in the master bedroom presented a challenge that Kelly saw as an opportunity for a cozy lounging area. "It's perfect for rainy afternoons and reading to kids at night," she says. The bedroom's narrow window also became a "plus" instead of a "minus" with a spectacular wall treatment.

A recent trip to Scandinavia influenced Kelly's picks for the living room, such as the Danish modern chairs, floral drapes and checked cushions. The contemporary cottage-casual vibe is captured by the soft, watery colours (like washed-out wood tones and iridescent blues) and natural fibres (linen, wool and jute).

George **COCKTAIL TABLE,** The Cross; Douglas fir cube **END TABLE,** Brent Comber Originals; CH25 Wegner **CHAIRS,** Inform Interiors; 27591 **SOFA FABRIC** in 161, Groundworks Iman Embroidery **DRAPERY FABRIC** in Latté, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom.


"I WANTED TO GIVE THE HOUSE, WHICH IS ABOUT FIVE BLOCKS FROM THE SEASHORE, A BEACHY, RELAXED VIBE." KELLY DECK, DESIGNER
Onnasch

"Built-ins are the answer to an ordered life," says Kelly. "They change how your space functions." A fact, she says, that's especially significant in a compact home. These built-ins (capable of storing both hanging and folded clothing) enable this room to be used as an office and guest room, or a den, as the area above the desk is wired for a TV.

Chicago **CHAIR,** Bari Designs; GP & J Baker Emperor's Garden **CHAIR FABRIC** in Silver/Grey, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom; Forsa **TASK LAMP,** IKEA.

ABOVE "I added the blue silk drapes because the room is so small it needed something to ground it," says Kelly. The ottomans are a secondhand find re-covered in linen. The tables were pricey, but you can balance the budget, Kelly advises, by making smart trade-offs.

Hamilton **SOFA,** Van Gogh Designs; 30300 **SOFA FABRIC** in 11, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom; Gustave **END TABLES,** Country Furniture; **OTTOMANS,** The Main Sellution.

add the hardwood floors. "Flooring is critical. It was the first thing we chose," says Kelly. "I love floors you can actually live on. A dark stain is gorgeous, but it requires too much care." The beach is about kids, dogs and easy living, Kelly adds, so she selected a smoked, scraped white oak floor with a wax treatment, which can easily be refinished when scuffed. The sandy hue also works with the beachy, muted palette Kelly wanted.

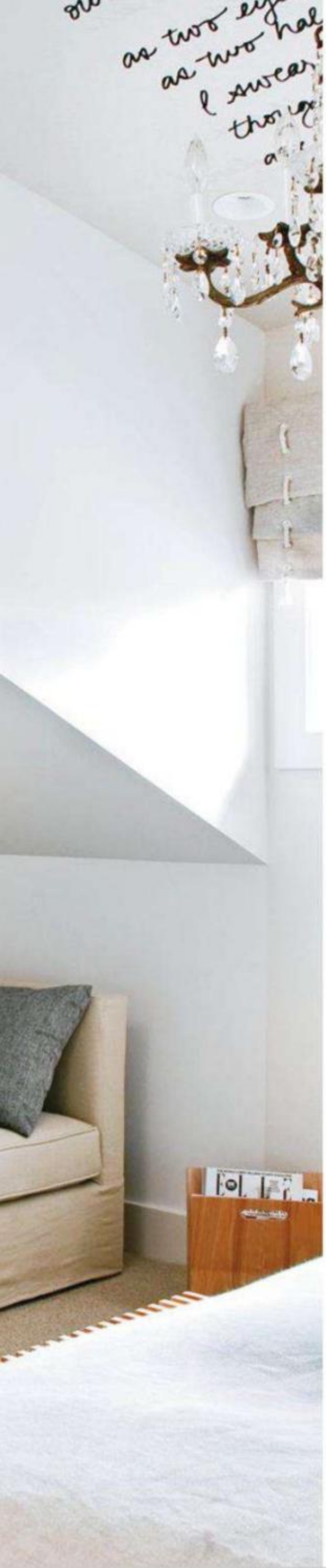
When describing the palette, Kelly doesn't imagine a fan deck, where the colours are splayed out in an orderly manner, but a landscape – one that she loves – where the tones shine in their natural environment. "I love the colours of a West Coast beach: cool ivories, pale grey blues and hints of driftwood," she says. "There's a weathered lightness to it all, like in Scandinavia. I wanted to replicate that."

But paying homage to the beach doesn't mean simply plunking some shells in vases. Set against a blank slate of white walls, layers of fabric embody the gentle, landscape-inspired palette: linen (Kelly loves it), faded florals (she'd use more if her clients would let her), and blue silk (reminiscent of the shimmery water nearby). A glass mosaic fireplace surround in a spectrum of blue hues adds sparkle to the living room, while a pressed-marble backsplash lends textural interest to the crisp all-white kitchen. "People are afraid of using monochromatic palettes because they think it'll be boring, but the trick is to make it quiet and inviting by adding

The long daybed-like sofa under the eaves is – ingeniously – two sofas covered by a single slipcover. "We couldn't fit something that big up the stairs," says Kelly. The piece, with its inverted-tuft seat cushion (no uncomfortable buttons to sit on) reminds her of big Moroccan floor cushions. The back cushion's graphic pattern plays up the bohemian feel.

Custom **SOFA,** Kelly Deck Design; 27591 **SLIPCOVER FABRIC** in 116, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom; custom **FRAMING,** Magnum Frames.

"IT'S THAT ARTISTIC FREE SPIRIT THAT PERSONALIZES THIS HOUSE AND STRIKES A NOSTALGIC CHORD IN EVERYONE WHO WALKS THROUGH ITS DOORS." KELLY DECK, DESIGNER



An ornately detailed bed suits the romanticism of the room. The Scandinavian-style bench draws a connection to the Danish modern pieces elsewhere in the house. The eclectic mix is characteristic of Kelly's personal style.

Custom **WALLPAPER,** Rollout Custom Wallpaper; Swedish platform **BED,** The Cross; 24584 **BED LINEN FABRIC** in 116, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom.

layers of texture and interesting shapes," says Kelly.

The new millwork – panelling, a coffered ceiling and built-ins – adds age-appropriate architectural interest to this serene home, but it's Kelly's well-curated collection of furniture and accessories that create eye-catching forms. "I like an eclectic look. That's what we try to do, make things look less designed and more organic," she says. The mix is compelling: a little Danish modern, some pared-back industrial, some brave 21st century – all softened by decidedly romantic boho elements, like the master bedroom's antique crystal chandelier, luxuriously long sofa and custom wallpaper featuring a beautiful love poem by the late B.C. poet P.K. Page (1916-2010).

It's that artistic free spirit that personalizes this house and strikes a nostalgic chord for everyone who walks through its doors. "Yes, we were making this place fresh and new, but without forgetting its past," says Kelly. "The home was undergoing a revitalization, a rebirth, but I wanted to honour the sense of history here. I wanted to show that we care about it." And with that kind of personal touch, who wouldn't give this designer carte blanche?

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

SMALL WONDERS

RECIPES & FOOD STYLING CLAIRE STUBBS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** EDWARD POND | **PROP STYLING** LARA MCGRAW

It's true that, for some of us, summer provides a culinary conundrum: on one hand, every ingredient is at its best – field-fresh and fragrant, enticing us to dig right in. On the other hand, the warm weather brings a seductive lethargy, when the last thing we want to think about is expending the energy to cook up and devour a four-course meal. Here, we've mastered the art of having it both ways with quick and easy favourites served up in tiny, full-flavoured portions that will treat the taste buds and satisfy the soul.

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Getting Bikini Ready!

Wow! I can't believe that bikini season is right around the corner. My mantra for spring: tone up and trim down!

I've read the best way to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight is a combination of cardio, weight training and healthy eating. Now that the weather's nicer, here's my plan:

- Start walking and cycling (note to self: pick up a new pair of running shoes!)
- Add weight training every second day (they say your muscles need a day off between weight training sessions).
- See if Karen wants to join me. It's always easier to get fit with a friend.
- Start a plan to eat better. Definitely not into "dieting" – what works best is starting the day with a healthy breakfast that includes Special K* Red Berries (yummy!), eating three balanced meals plus healthy snacks and watching those portion sizes. Starting today!

> "...the best way to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight is a combination of cardio, weight training and healthy eating."

Easy ways to get set for spring

- Choose portion-controlled snacks like Special K* bars as part of a healthy diet.
- Gather the family for some spring cleaning – then open the windows and let in some fresh air.
- Declutter! Chuck the stuff that's filling your closets, basement and garage.
- Go swimsuit shopping to get you in the mood for some beach fun!

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MAKES 12 BURGERS

- 1 lb lean ground lamb
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp hoisin sauce
- 1 tsp hot chili sauce
- 1 tsp minced ginger
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tbsp green onion, finely chopped
- ½ cup Balkan-style yogurt
- 2 tbsp sweet mint jelly
- 12 slider buns
- 2 cups baby arugula
- 12 cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 mini cucumber, finely sliced

Place lamb in a large bowl; add the salt, pepper, hoisin and chili sauces, ginger, garlic, cumin and green onion and mix well with your hands. Divide the mixture into 12 balls and flatten each into a disk. Refrigerate until ready to grill. Meanwhile, stir together the yogurt and mint jelly in a small bowl; set aside.

Heat barbecue to medium high. Place the burgers on the grill and cook for about 6 to 8 minutes, turning once, until nicely browned on each side. During the last minute of cooking, place the slider buns on the grill, cut side down, to toast.

To serve, slather the toasted buns with the mint yogurt, add burger and top with arugula, tomatoes and cucumber.

INDIVIDUAL GREEN GAZPACHO WITH DIY GARNISHES

MAKES 5 CUPS

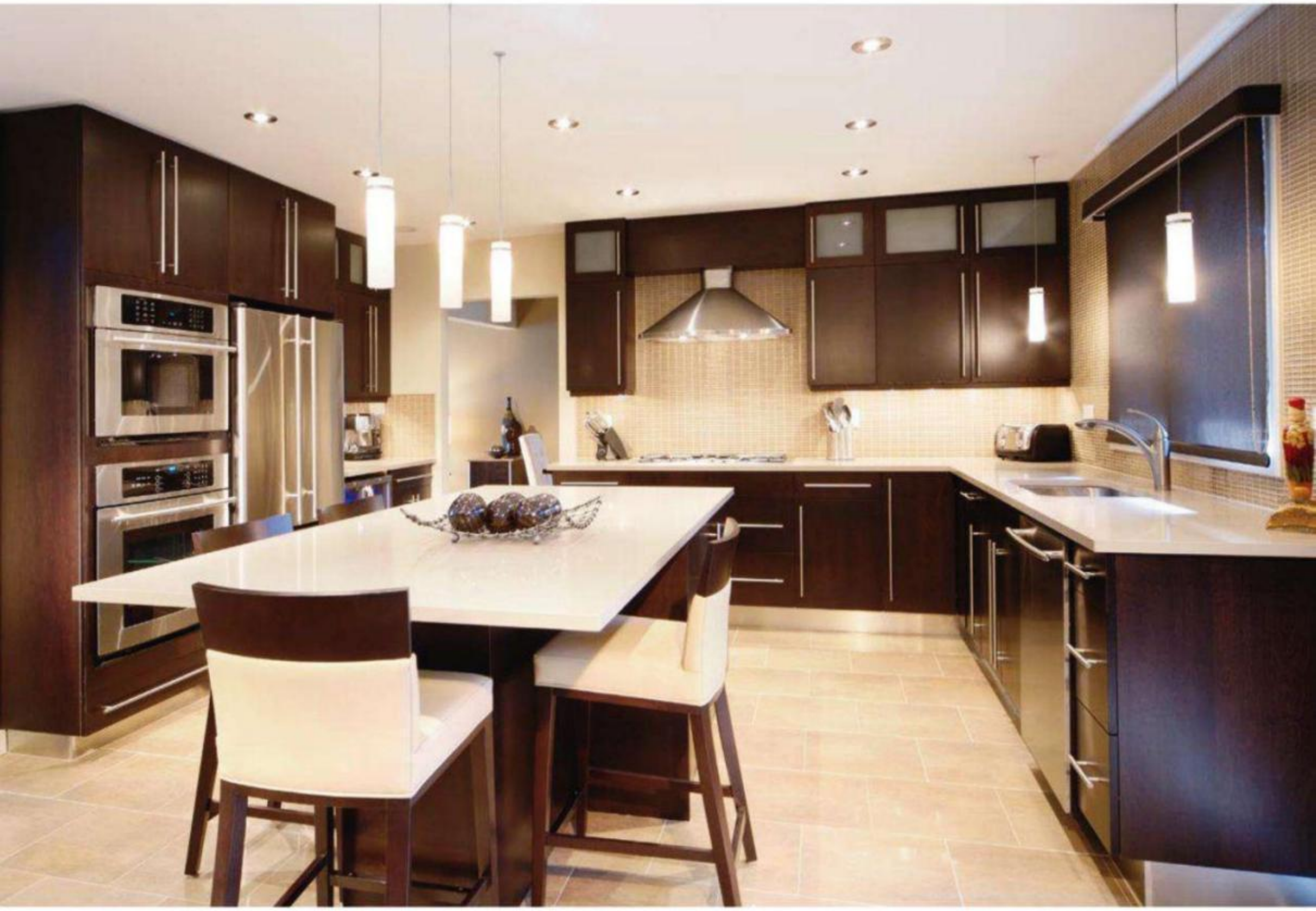
- 1 English cucumber
- 1 yellow pepper
- 3 yellow tomatoes
- ¼ small sweet white onion
- 1 ripe avocado
- 1 cup vegetable stock or water
- 1 tsp freshly squeezed lime juice
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- ¾ cup fresh cilantro
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 Thai chili
- 1 tsp Maldon sea salt

Garnish

- 1 2" piece reserved cucumber
- 1 each: yellow and red tomato
- ½ cup small croutons
- ¼ cup small basil leaves

Cut a 2" piece of cucumber and reserve for the garnish. Peel the rest and chop into large chunks; place in a blender or food processor. Chop the remaining vegetables into chunks and add to the blender along with remaining soup ingredients. Process the mixture until smooth. Pass soup through a sieve, pressing with the back of a spoon to release as much liquid as possible. Discard the solids. Refrigerate the soup for 2 or 3 hours to allow all the flavours to mingle.

To prepare the garnish, finely chop the reserved cucumber piece and dice the tomatoes. Place each of the garnishes in its own bowl for guests to help themselves. To serve, pour the chilled soup into small cups and set on a tray filled with ice, with the garnish bowls on the side.



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THESE TINY TASTINGS may offer big flavour, but your table setting shouldn't be so over the top that it overwhelms what's on the menu. The idea here is sunny, carefree and casual, a do-it-yourself feast that works as well for two people as it does for 10. The decorating should reflect that, with a couple of pretty twists thrown in that elevate the scene from being merely backyard burgers and beer. Look for minimal yet sophisticated biodegradable paper plates and bowls like these Wasara dishes from Branch that work beautifully with everyday glassware and wooden utensils.

GOOD THINGS come in small packages, and here the scene is set with a diminutive collection of easy-care blooms. Cut fresh daisies, mums and freesia in summery shades of yellow and white from the garden, and add them to a few stems of purchased orchids and eryngium. Utilitarian glasses and ceramic bowls in cheery shades set off the arrangements to perfection. Woven textiles complete the look.

PHOTOGRAPHY XXXXXXXXXX

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CRUNCHY VIETNAMESE SLAW

SERVES 6 TO 8

- 3 cups napa cabbage, thinly sliced
- 3 bok choy, thinly sliced
- 1 carrot, peeled and thinly sliced
- ½ cucumber, cut into matchsticks
- 1 red pepper, thinly sliced
- 2 green onions, chopped

Vinaigrette

- 2 tbsp freshly squeezed lime juice
- 2 tbsp rice wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 2 tbsp fish sauce
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp toasted sesame oil
- 1 tsp each: minced ginger and garlic
- 1 Thai chili, minced
- 2 tbsp each: finely chopped mint, cilantro and basil leaves
- ¼ cup crispy fried shallots
- ½ cup chopped toasted cashews

Stir together the cabbage through green onion in a large bowl.

Whisk vinaigrette ingredients in a small bowl and add to slaw just before serving. Top with herbs, shallots and cashews.

PINK SUMMER SANGRIA

MAKES 8 CUPS

- 1 750-ml bottle rosé wine
- 3 peaches, chopped
- 2 cups watermelon, chopped
- ½ cup sliced strawberries
- 2 tbsp limoncello
- 2 cups sparkling lemonade
- 2 cups crushed ice

Pour the wine into a large glass pitcher and add the fruit pieces and limoncello. Let sit for 30 minutes to allow flavours to infuse. Just before serving, add the lemonade and crushed ice. Stir gently before serving.

WATERMELON + KAFFIR LIME ICE POPS

MAKES 8 POPSICLES

- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup water
- ½ small watermelon, rind removed and flesh cubed
- 1 kaffir lime leaf, very finely chopped
- 2 tbsp freshly squeezed lime juice

Boil sugar and water together in a small saucepan for 2 minutes. Remove from heat; allow to cool.

Pulse watermelon in a food processor until smooth. Remove 2 cups of the juice and reserve for a later use. Add sugar syrup, chopped lime leaf and juice and process until smooth. Pour into eight popsicle moulds and freeze.

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FRESH NOW:

Rhubarb

Tart and tangy, rhubarb is best paired with strawberries and orange to sweeten it up.

RECIPE: **Rhubarb Compote**

Serve this simple fruity treat over ice cream or with a dollop of whipped cream.

1 cup (250 mL) granulated sugar
¼ cup (60 mL) water
6 cups (1.5 L) chopped fresh rhubarb
1 strip orange rind
1 cup (250 mL) sliced strawberries

In top of double boiler over direct heat, bring sugar and water to boil. Place over gently boiling water in double boiler; stir in rhubarb and orange rind. Cook, covered and without stirring, until tender, 15 to 20 minutes. Turn off heat; let stand until cool. Chill. To serve, remove orange rind; gently stir in strawberries.

FRESH NOW:

Spring Greens

Tender lettuces are one of the first early pleasures of the garden.

RECIPE:

Lemon Thyme Vinaigrette

In jar, shake together ¾ cup (175 mL) vegetable oil, 1 tbsp (15 mL) grated lemon zest, ¼ cup (60 mL) lemon juice, 1 tsp (5 mL) dried thyme, ¼ tsp (1 mL) each salt and pepper. Toss with your favourite in-season mixed greens. (Dressing can be refrigerated for up to 2 weeks.)

ENTERTAINING TIP:

Sprinkle herb chiffonade over salads, soups or any dish that needs a fresh hit of summery flavour.

To cut chiffonade, choose herbs with long, delicate leaves, such as mint or basil. Strip leaves off stems; stack one on top of the other. Roll stack, from one short end, into cylinder; slice thinly to form long, slender strips.

DENTAL HEALTH:

A Tooth Health Hint

Don't brush right after eating, when the enamel is soft – wait at least one hour after a meal or brush before eating. Try rinsing with water after meals instead of brushing after eating.

Get more information at pronamel.ca

For more recipes and entertaining tips, pick up the July issue of Canadian Living! Plus, go online to canadianliving.com/freshtake for your fresh produce calendar!

PACKING FOR *keepers*

TEXT KONRAD EJBICH

For many folks, rare wines and exotic spirits are favourite souvenirs from abroad. But now that airlines no longer permit liquids in carry-ons, all bottles must be checked, which means airport staff will be tossing your stuff around. The joy of the chase can quickly go sour if your bottles break in transit or, worse, have to be forfeited at customs. Here, wine and spirits columnist Konrad Ejbich solves the perpetual dilemma of flimsy suitcases and rough handlers, providing both traditional and modern solutions.

when communicating with customs agents...

Remember that you're permitted to import 1.5 litres of alcohol duty-free into Canada if you have been away for more than 48 hours. **Declare everything.** Be friendly with Canadian customs officers, and they'll be friendly with you.

You may import up to 12 additional 750 ml bottles (or an equivalent amount) provided that they're in your possession and you agree to pay full duty on them. Don't forget to claim your two most expensive bottles as duty-free.

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socks & t-shirts Wrap your bottle(s) in socks. Rewrap in T-shirts and again in as many layers of clothing as possible. Position securely in the centre of your suitcase. Surround with the rest of your belongings, but don't place hard metal or glass items nearby. Never wrap two bottles together. Ensure your suitcase is stuffed full, so nothing shifts.

disposable bag The WineSkin bottle-shaped vinyl transport bag has a bubble-wrap interior to provide protection from breakage. The sealable tape closure guards against leakage. When empty, the bag lies flat, taking up no space in your suitcase. **$6 per set of 2, available at travel shops worldwide.**

reusable wrap The BottleWise Rollup liquid-tight wine travel bag wraps up into a hard, tubelike shell, protecting your bottle from sudden impact. **$20, bottlewise.com.**

bottle cases Bottle cases come in all sizes, shapes and capacities. Some travel shops and websites sell cardboard, fine leather or aluminum cases, which hold from one to 12 bottles.

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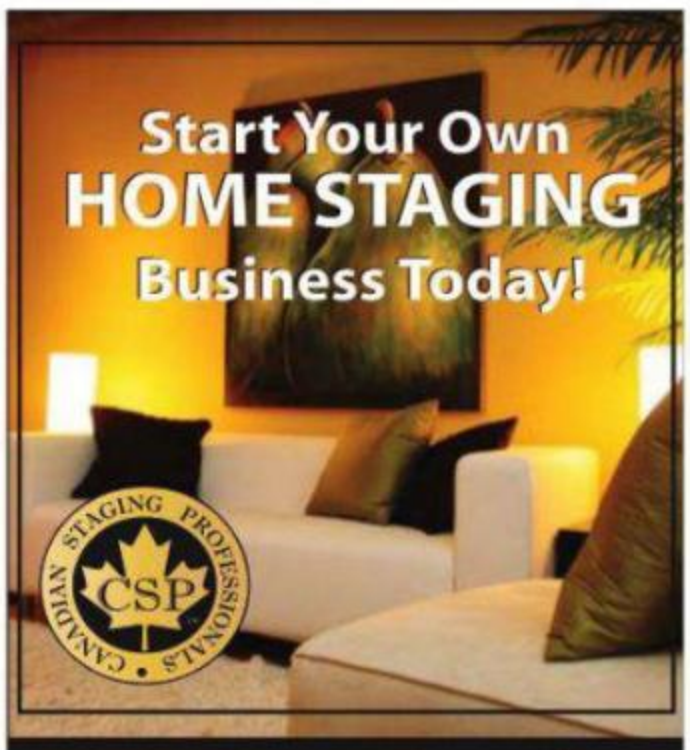

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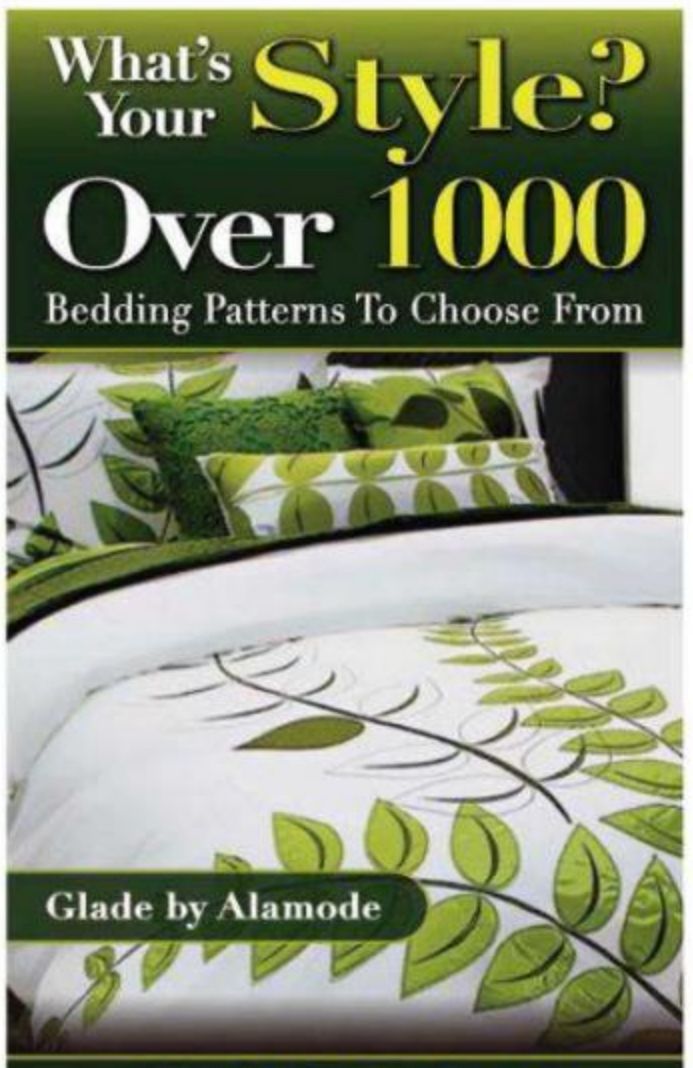

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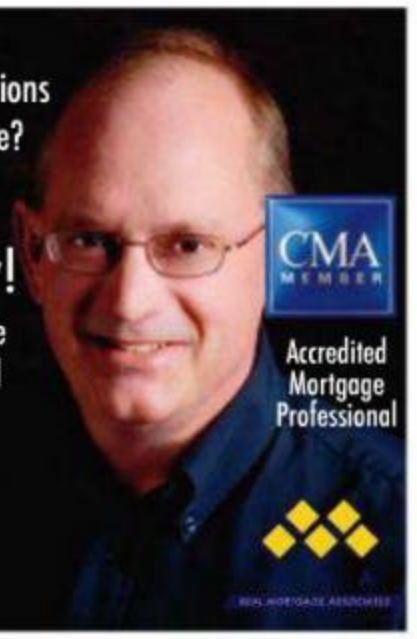

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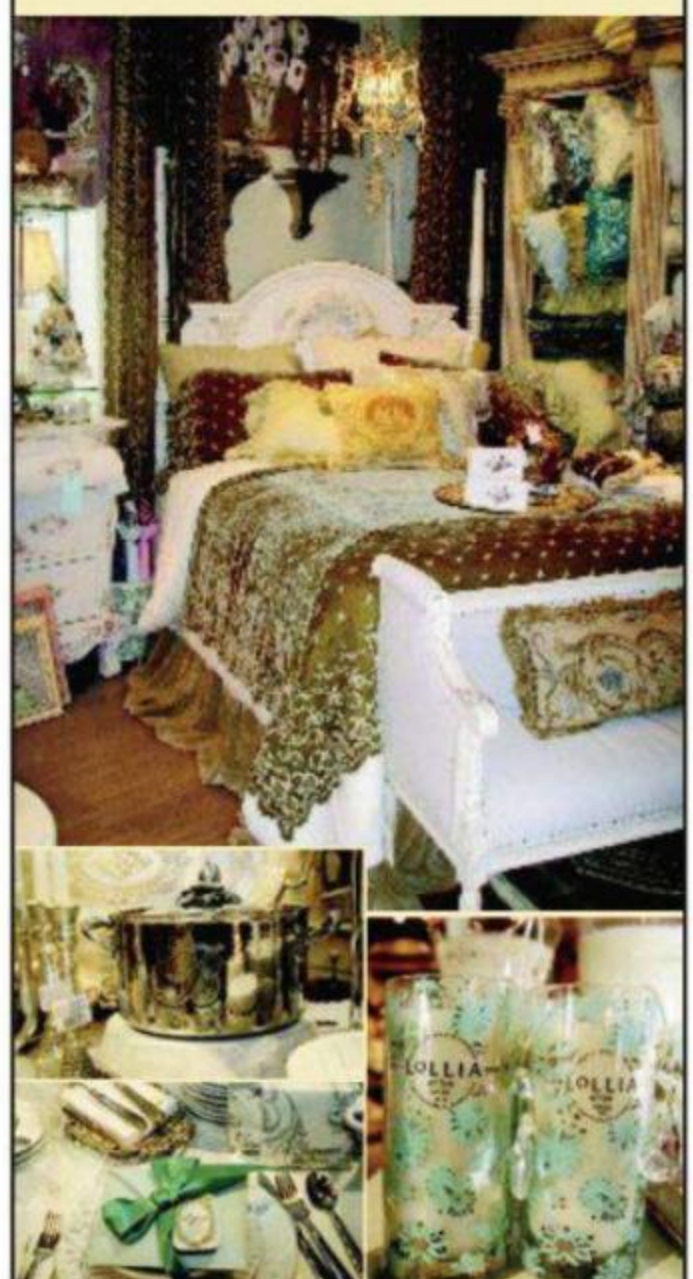

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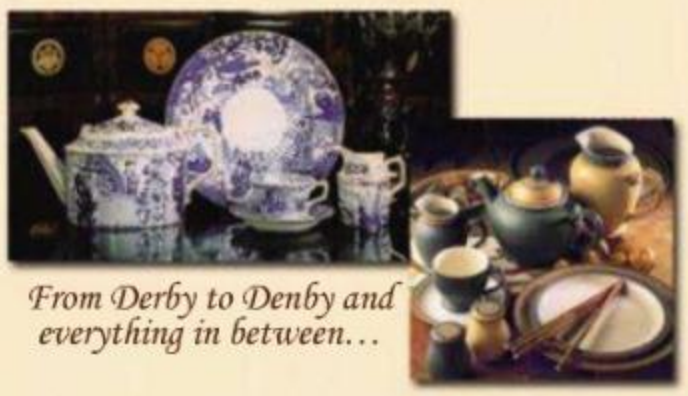

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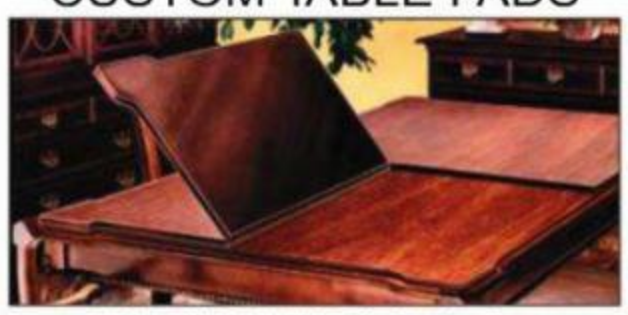

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where to find it

CONCEPT #1 PALETTE 1 Custom blended glass Chevron **TILE,** Edgewater Studio, edgewaterstudio.com. 2 Railroaded **FABRIC,** through designers, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom, kravetcanada.com. 3 Bianca Carrara marble **ISLAND TOP,** Marble Art Canada, marble-art.ca. 4 Gray Owl OC-52 **ISLAND PAINT,** 5 Oxford White CC-30 **WALL PAINT,** 6 Blue Note 2129-30 **ACCENT PAINT,** Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca. 7 Linen 27591-50 **FABRIC,** through designers, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom, as above. 8 Dwell Studio Vintage Plumes **FABRIC** in Jade, through designers, Robert Allen, robertallendesign.com. 9 Quartzite Aurora Snow **COUNTERTOP,** HanStone, hanstone.com. 10 Sanderson Lilia Weave **FABRIC** in Green Gold/Fuchsia, through designers, Télio, telio.com. RENDERING Birch Ädel **CABINETRY DOOR,** Vinna **CABINET DOOR PULL,** Godmorgon **CABINET DRAWER** (for custom bench), Ekby Järpen **WALL SHELF,** Renlig **DISHWASHER,** Framtid **MICROWAVE OVEN,** Bredskär **SINK,** Ringskär **FAUCET,** IKEA, ikea.ca; **RANGE, HOOD, FRIDGE, FREEZER, WINE FRIDGE, COFFEE MACHINE,** Thermador, thermador.com; brushed brass Stacking Bubbles **PENDANT LIGHT,** Lindsey Adelman Studio, lindseyadelman.com; Kentwood hardwood **FLOORING,** Carpet One Floor & Home, carpetone.ca.

CONCEPT #2 PALETTE 1 30994-35 **FABRIC,** through designers, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom, as above. 2 Designer Grey 50YY 63/041 **CABINETRY PAINT,** CIL Paint, cil.ca. 3 Honed Grigio Piove limestone **TABLETOP.** 4 Quartzite Aurora Snow **COUNTERTOP,** HanStone, as above. 5 Thom Filicia Collamer **FABRIC** in Natural, 6 Make an Impact **FABRIC** in Sterling, through designers, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom, as above. 7 Silk LTM211 **WALLCOVERING,** Metro Wallcoverings, metrowallcoverings.com. 8 Polished Calcutta marble **COUNTERTOP & BACKSPLASH,** Antica Tile & Stone, antica.ca. 9 Modern **FABRIC** in Spa, through designers, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom, as above. RENDERING Birch Nexus **CABINETRY,** Bredskär **SINK,** Ringskär **FAUCET,** IKEA, as above; **RANGE, HOOD, FRIDGE, FREEZER, WINE FRIDGE, COFFEE MACHINE,** Thermador, as above; *Bundles* **SCULPTURE** by Dennis Lin, *Untitled White Tree* **ARTWORK** by Davide Rupiani for Art Squared, JR Art Consultants, jrartconsultant.com; Kentwood hardwood **FLOORING,** Carpet One Floor & Home, as above.

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ARTWORK (clockwise from top left) *Blossom* by Shira Sela, etsy.com/shop/shirae; *Tiny* by Amber Alexander, etsy.com/shop/amberalexander; *Hello Spring* by Cathy Nichols, etsy.com/shop/cathynichols; *Seahorse* by Amber Alexander, as above; *Blue Squirrel* by Orange Willow, etsy.com/shop/orangewillow; *Sara* by Holli, etsy.com/shop/holli; *Turkey Feathers* by Amber Alexander, as above; *Lemon Yellow Citrus Birds* by Sugarloop, etsy.com/shop/sugarloop; *Gibby Napping* by Viza Arlington, etsy.com/shop/VIZArt; *Milkweed Pod* by Amber Alexander, as above; *Raindrops* by Golly Bard, etsy.com/shop/gollybard; *Hometown Day's* by J. M. Barclay, etsy.com/shop/jmbarclay; *World Famous Talking Horse* by One Tin Drum, etsy.com/shop/onetindrum.

style news FROM PAGE 39

designer paint picks

"A deep peacock blue can make a dramatic statement or create a moody ambience. Not only is it gender neutral, it's seasonally neutral too, as it can look equally fun and fresh as it can festive and glamorous."

Mistral CC-842, Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

"This light to mid-tone grey with warm undertones is a chameleon-like colour that changes with the light. It doesn't distract from a beautiful view and is a great backdrop for artwork."

Sketch 6206-31, Sico, sico.ca.

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the coffee table FROM PAGE 64

tommy smythe's styling tips

TREAT THE TABLETOP AS A GRID
Whether you divide it in half, in quadrants or nine different areas, try to look at your coffee table from a formulaic perspective so the distribution of objects is even. You might place a large tray in the lower corner of a square coffee table, and then stack some books on the opposite diagonal. Both are the same shape and visual weight. Keep lighter items, such as votives, decorative objects or flowers, on the opposing diagonals to balance the heavier ones.

MAKE SURE IT'S PRETTY AND PRACTICAL
As a preference rather than a rule, you shouldn't have anything that isn't useful and beautiful on your coffee table. If you must have unattractive items, hide them in a pretty box. Remote controls, for example, fit nicely into vintage boxes.

ROTATE YOUR BOOK SELECTION
Your guests should always be able to pick up something different. Keep your newest books on the coffee table – read them and then, after a while, move them onto your bookshelves, clearing space for more new books!

REFERENCE MATERIALS CAN BE FUN
A world atlas or an encyclopedia are inspiring to look at. The one thing I always have on my coffee table is a world atlas. It's especially interesting when you're having a lively conversation, and somebody talks about travelling somewhere but you're not quite sure where it is. It's handy to be able to look it up.

TRAYS RULE
Keep a tray with tall sides on it to contain and organize your stuff. This is a tip I picked up from designer Thomas O'Brien, a real collector of trays – he has them all over the place!

MAKE IT INTERACTIVE
Have objects that guests can pick up and examine. The coffee table is the perfect place to express your interests and the things that you enjoy. The items should be interesting and start a conversation. The Rubik's Cube is always on my coffee table. It's something from my youth and I actually still play with it from time to time when I'm watching TV – although I still can't do the whole puzzle.

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STYLISH SOJOURN

The Surrey is a well-edited boutique hotel in the Upper East Side. The customer service is phenomenal: my concierge pointed me to a fantastic restaurant (doublecrown-nyc.com) and got me last-minute reservations to boot. The bed is to die for – you'll want to stay in your room, despite being in such a fantastic city.

The Surrey, 20 East 76th St., 212-288-3700; thesurrey.com.

new york city

On a recent trip to New York City, *Style at Home* managing editor **Tamara Robbins Griffith** hit the streets to scour the newest shopping and dining spots, and visited some old favourites as well.

FALL IN LOVE

This industrial-chic store had only been open for a few weeks when I set foot, quite by accident, inside. **Love, Adorned** carries everything from apothecary-style bath products to Laura Zindel ceramics and classic Pendleton blankets (shown above). Its thrillingly eclectic mix of product ranges from vintage ashtrays and turned wood tops to gorgeous jewellery by Lauren Wolf.

Love, Adorned, 269 Elizabeth St., 212-431-5683; loveadorned.com.

modern art

If you're the kind of person whose favourite part of a museum is the gift shop, you'll adore the famed Upper East Side **Gagosian Gallery,** which boasts a gallery on the main floor and a shop above. Peruse modern design books, Magis puppies and work by iconic contemporary designers.

Gagosian Gallery, 988 Madison Ave., 212-744-9200; gagosian.com.

Michele Varian's new digs are home to an expanded selection of delightful decor and gift items. Her own line of gorgeous cushions are reason enough to make this a must-see design destination (they're also available at Elte in Toronto). You'll also find – and drool over – unique *objets*, clever gift ideas and an eclectic array of jewellery.

Michele Varian, 27 Howard St., 212-226-1076; michelevarian.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TRANSCONTINENTAL INTERACTIVE (THROW), WILLIAM BRINSON (MICHELE VARIAN)

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FRESH & ELEGANT

Attica Furnishings is an East Coast-based furniture shop with locations in Halifax and St. John's. The store features contemporary designs, including sleek upholstered sofas, solid wood dining tables and unique light fixtures. Sophisticated accent pieces from 18Karat and Torre & Tagus add vibrant pops of colour to the shop's rather neutral, clean-lined vignettes.

Conrad **SOFA** by G. Romano, Attica Furnishings, 2 Fresh Water Rd., 709-739-8382; attica.ca.

st. john's, nfld.

Style at Home assistant editor **Amanda Etty** perused the oceanside streets of St. John's for the best in shopping, dining, sleeping and sightseeing.

ultimate luxury

Located on the oldest street in North America, **Home on Water St.** keeps a well-curated selection of dinnerware, apothecary products and home accessories. If you love to cook, their selection of All-Clad cookware (from $115) and Krups professional coffee makers (from $128) will have you reaching for your pocketbook.

Home on Water St., 156 Water St., 709-738-8228.

AMANDA'S FAVOURITES FOR...

A RE-ENACTMENT Signal Hill Tattoo, Signal Hill National Historical Site, 709-772-5367; rnchs.ca/tattoo.

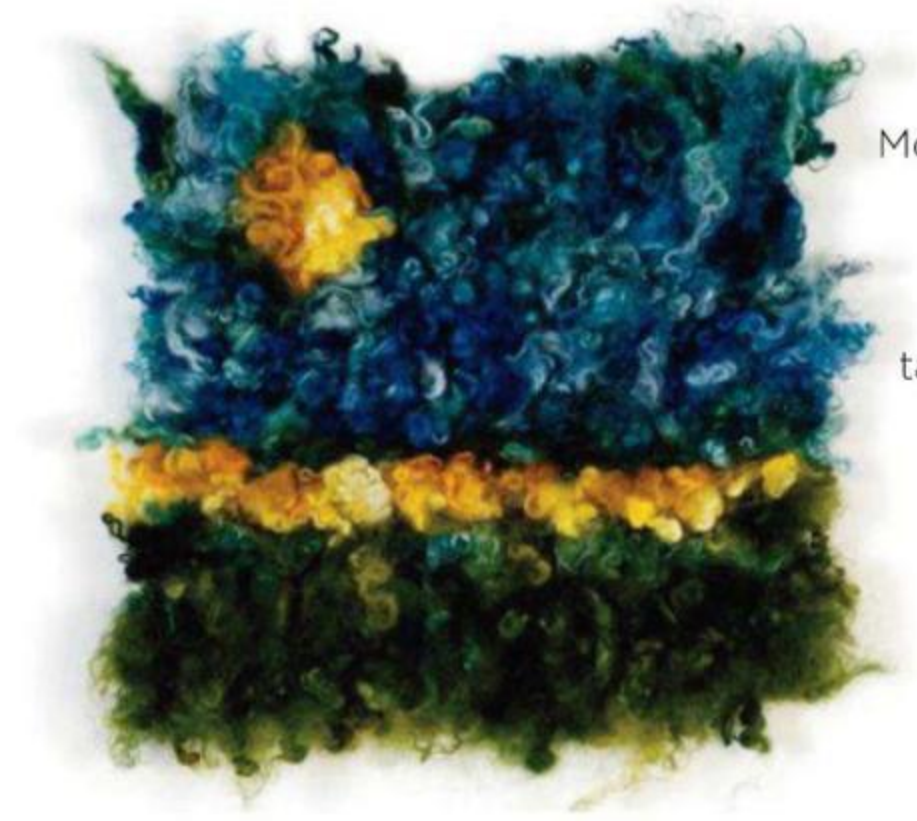
ACCOMMODATIONS Park House, 112 Military Rd., newfoundlandbedandbreakfast.nl.ca.

A LATTE Hava Java, 258 Water St., 709-753-5282.

FASHION Twisted Sisters Boutik!, 175 Water St., 709-722-6004; twistedsistersboutik.blogspot.com.

A LOCALLY SOURCED MEAL Bacalao, 65 Lemarchant Rd., 709-579-6565; bacalaocuisine.ca.

CANCON *The Republic of Doyle* (filmed in St. John's), Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on CBC.



ARTISANAL SPIRIT

Move over, Etsy. Newfoundland's craft culture is the real deal! The **Craft Council Gallery** celebrates the province's talented community of artisans. It features the work of more than 250 craftspeople, both traditional and contemporary, including weavers, potters, glass-blowers and jewellers.

Felted Landscape **ARTWORK** by Trine Schioldan, Craft Council Gallery, 59 Duckworth St., 709-753-2749; craftcouncil.nl.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SUSAN ROGERS (SIGNAL HILL TATTOO), ERIC WALSH (CRAFT COUNCIL SHOP)

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EverydayStyle

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show off

Today's statement chairs not only possess a sculptural silhouette and clever design but also combine an element of playfulness with comfort and colour. And this pretty, look-at-me armchair does just that, clad in an organic floral print and a high-gloss deep pink frame. Add one to your space for instant character.

ARMCHAIR, $200, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

PRODUCER, CATHERINE THERRIEN; PHOTOGRAPHY, NINA TEIXEIRA

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